

**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING****March 4, 2008  
MINUTES****CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION**

The Board meeting of March 4, 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. There was one public speaker who addressed the Board, Ms. Marlo Hartsuyker. 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 5:50 p.m. There were no announcements from Closed Session.

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

President Beaubien called the meeting to order at 6:05 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, and all speakers addressing the school closure issue was asked to speak at that agenda item after the presentation by Dr. Baarstad and the committee. All other public speakers were welcomed to speak during Public Comments.
2. Due to the number of speaker cards received (240), Mrs. Beaubien stated that all speakers would be offered two minutes instead of the traditional three minutes to speak.
3. The Board will stop public speakers at 9:45 p.m. so that the Board will have a chance to discuss the school closure item.
4. Pursuant to Board Policy 163.4, the Board took a vote to extend the time of the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
5. 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, Carol Boyan, Director, Curriculum, and Phil Nelson, Director, Planning & Facilities were also present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Dr. Stephens. Mr. Dunn asked if the Resolution presented at the February 19, 2008, meeting regarding the Governor's budget would be presented at a later date; Mrs. Beaubien stated that it would. The decision to delay bringing it forward as an action item was because of the full agenda this evening. Motion carried 5-0.

**Recognition of Marmonte League Champions: Newbury Park High School Football Team**

Athol Wong, Principal, Newbury Park High School, introduced head coach George Hurley, who has been the coach of the Newbury Park High School team for over 25 years, and will be retiring this year. Mr. Hurley introduced the team to the Board and community.

**Reports from Student Board Representatives**

Marina Piper, Thousand Oaks High School, Aaron Alpert, Westlake High School, Cody Gregoriadis, Conejo Valley/Century High Schools, and Katie Murphy, Newbury Park High School, discussed campus events such as club activities, athletics, theater, band and choral activities, assemblies and rallies, Mock Trial, National Honor Society and Sadie Hawkins events.

**Conejo Council PTA**

Aleta Smith, Conejo Council PTA Chair, discussed the Governor's budget proposal and how it would affect education. The Council's units will all of its 10,000 members have begun a campaign to convince the Governor and the legislators that there is nothing more important than education. In collaboration with various parent organizations and four other Ventura County School Districts (Oak Park, Simi Valley, Moorpark, and Las Virgenes) will be sponsoring a five-district Budget Crisis Forum. It will be held on April 2, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. at the Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Center. Ms. Smith would like to encourage all to attend.

**Comments from the Superintendent**

Mr. Contini gave background to the school closure process. Since the last Board meeting, the Facilities Committee has met to review and analyze the data, as well as the various pros and cons involved. District Office staff met with staff and parents at the schools that have been targeted for closure. The meetings were to ensure that the parents have the most updated information and to help them prepare what they would like to discuss with the board this evening. Issues of traffic safety, need for continued child care services, the powerful impact of children in special programs, concerns that school closure is focusing too much on imbalance of diversity and not enough on API scores and Distinguished School recognition, a loss of confidence and credibility since the last meeting, and the fact that there could be an exodus of families, resulting in more loss of income, were some overriding themes. The input from parents was compelling, heartwarming and persuasive, but the core of the concerns was similar from school to school even though the context and degree were a little different. We are all very unhappy with the proposition that we need to close two schools. The committee has been aware and sensitive to the issues brought up by parents, and has worked very hard under difficult circumstances, but the committee could not base its recommendations on issues outside the criteria decided upon. For example, the concern that many families will leave the school district for private schools is a great concern, but not within the criteria that the committee was working with. Some parents feel that concerns raised about balancing diversity in the schools has been a primary driving force. For clarification, balancing diversity means balancing the English Language Learners or children with families of low economic means. The primary purpose for the school closures is to address declining enrollment, not to balance diversity. But school closure does present an opportunity for us to improve diversity and will only make a small dent in regard to balancing diversity. The imbalance in our schools developed years ago and has been developing over many years and for many reasons. It will take a mix of several strategies to fix the problem, among those being school closure, adjustment in boundaries, change in our Choice policy, and bringing in new and exciting programs that will attract families to schools.

The Board will not make the formal decision to close schools this evening, but they will hear committee recommendations and public comments and will discuss this matter. There are some people that believe that the Board "caved to pressure" on February 5. Please don't confuse the act of listening, and listening intently, with

the act of caving to pressure. On February 5, the Board excluded two schools from the process. The Board has been around long enough to know that this would be applauded by few and criticized by many. They listened to compelling information from parents and staff, and they did not cave in then and will not cave in tonight. It listened then, and it will listen tonight. Tonight, if the Board directs staff to bring forth for consideration schools other than the eight on the committee's list, then the issue for school closure will be an information item for March 18 and there will be no action until at least April 1. However, if the Board directs staff to come forward with further consideration for two of the eight schools, final action to close those two schools could be taken on March 18.

Finally, we are all very unhappy with the dilemma of having to close schools. I would like to thank the committee for their hard work, for Dr. Baarstad for "taking the heat" and to those who helped us hold this meeting in the Center tonight. Many thanks also to the parents for your time and thoughts.

#### **Comments from Board Members**

Mrs. Phelps commented on the Discovery Center as a topic on the City Council meeting tonight. She stated that she wished she could be there to comment on the incredible asset this would be to our community. Mrs. Didio stated that the Center was able to raise \$6 million toward the project.

#### **Comments from the Public**

One speaker spoke to the issue of raising funds for CVUSD by suggesting a raise of sales tax from 7.25% to 7.50%, with a certain percentage going toward the school district; one speaker spoke about community relations in regard to school closure.

### **ACTION ITEMS - GENERAL**

#### **Board of Education and Superintendent's Office**

##### **A. Amendment of Board Policy 332.9, Graduation Requirements (Adult Education), First Reading**

Mrs. Didio moved to amend Policy 332.9 as recommended to comply with current legislation regarding graduation, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Instructional Services**

##### **B. Secondary Early Back Summer School Program for 2008**

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the secondary early back program as proposed, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Business Services**

##### **C. 2007-2008 Second Quarter Financial Statements**

Mr. Dunn moved to accept the 2007-2008 Second Quarter Financial Statements as amended (title corrections on some pages), seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

##### **D. Resolution #07/08-14: Authorizing to Borrowing of Funds for Fiscal Year 2008/2009 and the Issuance and Sale of a 2008/2009 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note Therefore and Participation in the California School Cash Reserve Program and Requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County to Issue and Sell the Note**

Dr. Stephens moved to adopt resolution #07/08-14: Authorizing the issuance of the 2008 TRANs and participate in the California School Cash Reserve Program, seconded by Mr. Dunn. Motion carried 5-0.

### **ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT**

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

##### **A. Approval of minutes:**

1. Regular Meeting of February 5, 2008

2. Special Meeting of February 12, 2008
  3. Regular Meeting of February 19, 2008
- B. Personnel Assignment Orders:
1. Certificated: #8009 through #8032  
*Management, Teachers*
  2. Classified: C-4097 to C-4109  
*Child Care Assistant, Paraprofessional/Special Education, Senior Account Clerk, Senior Accountant*
  - Exempt: E-7753 to E-7792  
*Campus Supervisor, Coach, Proctor, Specialist, Specialist-Naturalists, Student Helper*
- C. Expulsion:
1. Conejo Valley High School #26-07/08E
  2. Newbury Park High School #27-07/08E
  3. Los Cerritos Middle School #28-07/08E
  4. Conejo Valley High School #29-07/08E
- D. Overnight Trip Requests
1. Thousand Oaks High School Choir
- E. Field Trip by Airplane: Cypress Elementary School
- F. Parent Support/Booster Organization Reauthorization
1. Redwood Middle School Band Booster Club
  2. Newbury park High School Baseball Booster Club
- G. Purchase Order Report #719
- H. Change Orders
1. #1 Westlake High School – Phase 1 Modernization General Construction – David Atkin Construction, Inc.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Instructional Services**

- A. Approval of High School Science Courses of Study
- B. Approval of CSBA 1312 Board Policies and Administrative Regulations - Information

### **Business Services**

- C. Consideration of Recommendation for Elementary School Closure  
Mrs. Beaubien opened with comments about the commitment of the committee and staff who have worked on the school closure process over several months. She thanked parents and community members for their comments and concerns, and assured them that no one wants to close schools. Some comments have been incredibly helpful and some have been hurtful to other schools. This school board is not going to vote due to parent pressure. We have no intention of throwing out the committee's work, and we have no intention of moving students to low performing schools – we have no low performing schools.

Dr. Baarstad made a presentation, which may be obtained from our website at [www.conejo.k12.ca.us](http://www.conejo.k12.ca.us), under School Closure information.

The Board received 246 speakers' cards; 70 speakers addressed the issue of school closure before Mrs. Beaubien stopped for Board discussion at 9:45 p.m. Mrs. Didio opened the Board discussion by asking if anyone would like to contact the first speaker who suggested raising sales tax to help the school district. She also clarified the concern that the school district would sell school sites. This district has never sold a school site and she cannot imagine that happening. She asked Dr. Baarstad to explain how much money CVUSD has to cut from its budget to get it balanced in the coming year. Dr. Baarstad stated to satisfy the long term declining enrollment issue, which will take \$4.8 million over 4-5 years, and if the current proposal by the

Governor is not changed by May, we will have to cut over \$4 million. Dr. Baarstad offered to return to the next meeting with information about how to place a sales tax override the next ballot.

Mrs. Phelps asked if middle school boundaries would change or would they stay the same. Dr. Baarstad said that there are many scenarios, it will depend on what schools are closed. Dr. Stephens agreed that there is a lot of information for the Board to consider and to be ready on March 18. Mr. Dunn asked what the union's position was regarding closing schools. He stated that if we save money, the union would want to use the money for pay increases while the parents would want the money to keep the schools open. Mr. Contini said that we cannot speak for the unions, but they have not taken a position and are working with the District on transition. Mr. Dunn asked for clarification on information he read in the Acorn: between 2003-2007, the District gained 33 students and lost 3 teachers, gained 12 administrative positions and 18 pupil services positions. He said he verified it on the ed data website. This cost the district over \$1.4 million. Dr. Baarstad stated that in 2003 our overall enrollment grew and then started to decline. Just in the last two years we have eliminated over 200 teaching positions. Dr. Baarstad addressed the issue of the hiring of 12 administrators; he stated that he is aware of one additional position of Assistant Director of Pupil Services and that position is 100% funded by categorical funds. The position is primarily to assist students who are English Language Learners. Dr. Baarstad stated that the letter in the Acorn did not have the facts correct, and because school budgets are complex and difficult to understand, one must learn how to read them. The unrestricted general fund (around \$130 million) is the part of the budget with the greatest amount of reductions. Our total general fund is \$175 million, with \$65 million of that labeled for very specific expenditures by the state. Cutting 1% is cutting \$1.3 million. We have not added 10 administrative positions. Mr. Dunn stated that the internet confirms the numbers in the letter. Mr. Contini stated that when you talk about data in the budget that refers to administration, many times other positions that are not teaching positions are clumped into that category. For example, ten counselors were added this year because the state gave us \$1 million in supplemental counseling money, which can only be used for that purpose. The state gave one additional counseling position to every middle and high school to try to address the issue of students passing the High School Exit Exam. That may be one explanation. Mrs. Beaubien reminded everyone that we have been told that more drastic cuts will be coming. No one wants to close schools. This is a difficult decision for the Board, and the committee needs to be appreciated for their hard work. The Governor's budget will force the District to consider many other cuts besides closing schools. Dr. Baarstad stated that the schools and district will be coming up with a "laundry list" of items to cut to try to make up for the loss. We will have a list for the Board sometime in late spring.

Mrs. Beaubien spoke to the audience and let them know that they have been heard, and the Board's job now is to consider all the information. They will do the best job they can with the information they have. Mrs. Didio stated that the goal of the Board is to maintain quality education for all students. If we cut everything down to the classrooms in order to keep all schools open, the programs and quality of education we offer the students will suffer.

### **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 10:50 p.m. The Board will reconvene on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. for Open Session at the Thousand Oaks High School Performing Art Center, 2323 Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks.

April 1, 2008

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Date

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Clerk

April 1, 2008

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Date

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Superintendent

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