

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

April 1, 2008
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION

The Board meeting of April 1, 2008, was called to order by President Dorothy Beaubien at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Beaubien asked if there were any public speakers for the Closed Session agenda items; there were none. The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 5:03 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
Dr. Joel Kirchenstein, Sage Industries, Negotiator

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 6:02 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance, and read the procedural announcements for the meeting.

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, and Bob Iezza, Director, Elementary Education.

Approval of Agenda

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

Marmonte League Recognition

The Board recognized that Westlake High School Football team for their successful competition season.

Reports

- Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program: Lori Wall introduced the other BTSA teachers: Amie Mills, Christina Myren, and Brandy Wilbus, and presented information about the BTSA program. Board members applauded the work of the BTSA team.

- 2006/2007 Personnel Commission Annual Report
Nate Harimoto, President, presented the Board with the Commission's Annual Report and Executive Summary. (Copies of this report may be obtained through the Classified Personnel office at 805-497-9511, extension 209.) Mr. Harimoto introduced Marina Mihalevsky, Director, Classified Personnel.
- Elementary Mathematics Adoption
Carol Boyen, Director, Curriculum, offered a presentation regarding the Mathematics Adoption. *(Copies of the presentation may be obtained through the Curriculum office at 805-497-9511, extension 386.)*

Reports from Student Board Representatives

Aaron Alpert, Westlake High School, sat with the Board of Education. Aaron and Marina Piper, Thousand Oaks High School, reported on campus events such as club activities, athletics, theater, band and choral activities, art shows, assemblies and rallies, fund raisers, academy program, and others.

Comments from Support Groups

Lorraine O'Neill, Chair, Bond DAC, reported from the February 21 meeting. Phase 1 modernization projects are almost completed. As a result of the passage of the original \$88 million dollar bond, the District was able to apply for matching modernization money from the state, adding an additional \$61 million to the District for much needed improvements and upgrades to the facilities. These monies could only be spent on specific facility categories and could not be moved to cover any budget deficits. The annual report will be available in May 2008.

Aleta Smith, President, Conejo Council PTA, reported on the Budget Forum that is sponsored by the 12th District PTA and Californians Organized to Rescue Education (CORE). Five school Districts (Conejo Valley, Las Virgenes, Moorpark, Oak Park, and Simi Valley) will provide information on the impact of the Governor's budget on education. The forum will be held at the Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Center on April 2, 2008.

Pam Garvin, President, Conejo Schools Foundation, discussed the Foundation's annual retreat, where it was decided to offer mini-grants to the schools (\$2,500 to each high and middle school, \$1,000 to each elementary school, Conejo Valley High School and Sycamore Canyon \$1,500 each). The \$115,000 grant from Amgen to college level lab assistants in the science labs and continuing education for all science teachers at each of the comprehensive high schools was a great success. The Foundation hopes that Amgen will consider future grants. The All-District Music Festivals and All-District Choral Festivals are also sponsored through the Foundation. More information on these events may be obtained through the Foundation office at 805-497-9511, extension 410. Please check the Foundation website for donation opportunities at www.conejoschools.org.

Sue Wells, Chair, District Advisory Council (DAC), reported from the January, February, and March meetings. She thanked Dr. Baarstad for reporting about the school closure process at every meeting, and thanked the facilities goals committee for their difficult work and dedication.

Comments from the Superintendent

Mr. Contini: 1) discussed the Five-District Budget Forum, scheduled for April 2, 4:30 p.m. in Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Center, featuring Dr. Charles Weis, VCOE Supt, superintendents from Conejo Valley, Las Virgenes, Moorpark, Oak Park and Simi Valley Unified School Districts, to present information on the State Budget proposals and their impact on the schools in our region. Sponsored by PTA's and CORE (Californians Organized to Rescue Education). 2) announced the upcoming State of the District event that will occur on Wednesday, April 16, at the Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Center. This event will provide a picture of a sampling of the successes, challenges and future plans for our District with entertainment provided before and after the one-hour event by the music departments from our three comprehensive high schools. 3) congratulated Newbury Park High School AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, which has been named an AVID National Certified School for last year (2006-07). This program helps to encourage students with college potential that might not otherwise go to college. To achieve this recognition,

the program must meet eleven essential criteria and demonstrate program effectiveness and student progress. Congratulations to AVID Coordinator Darrin Carr, AVID teachers Summer Peterson and Curtis Scott, and to site team members Karla Villavicencio and Jerry Housman who worked together to make the program a huge success. 4) congratulated Leigh Ann Diffenderfer, Newbury Park High School school-to-career teacher, sent the following message from the Culinary Arts program: "I am very proud to let you know that our FHA-HERO competitive recognition event participation was a great success. We swept commercial foods competition (the most difficult event) with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. We also had a student win 3rd place in salad competition. These students are eligible to go to the State Leadership Conference and Competitive Recognition Event April 12 - 15." According to Leigh Ann, the commercial food competition was very intense. Students had 30 minutes prep time and 90 minutes to cook, with a judge standing and watching their every move. After they cooked, they were critiqued both individually and as a group by the judges. The entire process lasted most of the day. We had a total of six students competing, and four are advancing to the state level! 5) announced more good news! Sycamore Canyon Middle School students won First Place in the USC-Edison Challenge this past weekend. The six students along with their science teacher Pam Bluestein (who is responsible for facilitating and guiding the students through this project) won a week's trip the first week of June to the USC Wrigley Institute on Catalina Island.

Comments from Individual Board Members

There were no comments.

Comments from the Public

One public speaker (who was given another speaker's three minutes at the podium) addressed comments made by Mr. Dunn regarding school closure, the unfair labor charges brought against Mr. Dunn, and the derogatory term Mr. Dunn used against a union executive in a local newspaper. Two public speakers spoke against the school closures.

ACTION ITEMS - GENERAL

Board of Education and Superintendent's Office

A. Amendment of Board Policy 332.9, Graduation Requirements (Adult Education), Second Reading

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

B. Approval of Community-Based English Tutoring (CBET) Program Funding Application for Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the Community-Based English Tutoring (CBET) Program Application and Plan, Fiscal Year 2008-2009, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Approval of New High School Pilot Course: Digital Photography

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the pilot course: Digital Photography, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Approval of New High School VPA Pilot Course: Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Dr. Stephens moved to approve the pilot course: Sports and Entertainment Marketing, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Approval of Two New Core Literature Titles

Mr. Dunn moved to approve two new core literature titles: The Kite Runner and Into the Wild, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Approval of School Choice Capacity Limits for Secondary Schools 2008-2009

Mrs. Phelps moved to adopt the 2008/2009 proposed school choice capacity limits for secondary schools, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

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

- A. Approval of minutes:
 - 1. Regular Meeting of March 4, 2008
- B. Personnel Assignment Orders:
 - 1. Certificated: #8052 through #8054
 - 2. *Teachers*
 - 3. Classified: C-4123 to C-4142
Child Care Assistant, Child Care Supervisor, Child Nutrition Assistant I, Custodian, Director, Groundskeeper, Intermediate Clerk Typist, Paraprofessional/Special Education, Senior Clerk Typist, Telephone Operator/Receptionist
Exempt: E-7824 to E-7890
Campus Supervisor, Coach, Proctor, Specialist, Student Helper, Student Helper – Adventures in Math and Science
- C. Expulsions
 - 1. Thousand Oaks High School #35-07/08E
 - 2. Redwood Middle School #36-07/08E
 - 3. Conejo Valley High School #37-07/08E
 - 4. Redwood Middle School #38-07/08E
- D. Overnight Trip Request: Newbury Park High School Culinary Arts Competition
- E. Parent Support/Booster Organization Reauthorizations
 - 1. Sycamore Canyon Umbrella Booster Club
 - 2. Westlake Hills Parent Faculty Association Booster Club
 - 3. Thousand Oaks High School Girls Basketball Booster Club
- F. Purchase Order Report #721
- G. Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment
- H. Approval of the 2008-2009 Major Projects List
- I. Change Orders
 - 1. #2 – Westlake High School – Phase 1 Modernization HVAC/Specialty Electric – Viola, Inc.
 - 2. #2 – Wildwood Elementary School – Phase 2 Modernization – SBS Corporation, Inc.
 - 3. #4 – Los Cerritos Middle School – Phase 2 Modernization – Viola, Inc.

INFORMATION ITEMS**Instructional Services**

- A. Approval of K-5 Math Textbook and Materials Adoption. 25 speakers spoke on this issue: 9 supported the adoption, 11 were against the adoption, and 2 were for a dual adoption (3 who submitted cards were not available to speak). 9 Public Written Comments sheets were turned in: 7 supported the adoption, 1 was against the adoption, and 1 was for a dual adoption.

Dr. Stephens asked what the downside was for grade K-3 EveryDay Math and grades 4, 5 Harcourt Brace adoptions. Ms. Boyen stated that a 3-4 grade transition is difficult, whereas a 5-6 grade transition is much better. Dr. Stephens asked if there was any other school besides Weathersfield who voted 100% for Harcourt Brace. Ms. Boyen stated she thought there was another, but not sure. (*Ms. Boyen later reported that only Weathersfield voted 100% for Harcourt Brace.*) Dr. Stephens asked what the downside was for a dual adoption? Ms. Boyen responded that the transition would be difficult for students who move around the district and staff development would be a challenge. Mrs. Didio asked if the professional development training would be available for all teachers. Ms. Boyen stated yes, that teachers will be trained to help other

teachers. Mr. Dunn stated that he heard that parents had a difficult time with the lack of progress students make in EveryDay Math that they have taken their children out of our system and put them into private schools. One of his sources estimates approximately 2,000 students (high estimate) have been pulled out of our schools because of this program. Due to the budget problem, this is a concern. Mr. Dunn stated that he went to websites to check the criticism of EveryDay Math vs. Harcourt Brace, and the hits on the EveryDay math site was far greater than that of Harcourt Brace. Mr. Dunn stated that this would influence his decision. He would consider a dual adoption. Ms. Cosaro stated that transitioning from one program to another throughout the district would be difficult for students, especially with school closure sending students from one school to another. Mr. Contini stated that he encouraged Board members to weigh heavily the process of the teachers and Mrs. Boyen in the mathematics committee than hits on a web site. We should focus on the work of our people. Web sites certainly give us great information, but our staff's work should be far more valuable. Mrs. Beaubien asked what book students will be using in the 7th grade. Ms. Boyen stated that since this is the adoption year, they are still deciding. The change/transition will be in the 6th grade. Ms. Beaubien asked if that program would be a more traditional program. Ms. Cosaro stated that the main purpose of middle school mathematics is to prepare students for algebra. Ms. Phelps stated her opposition to students learning math one way K-3, then begin another entirely different program in grades 4, 5. Dr. Stephens referenced the presentation by Ms. Boyen which supports the use of EveryDay Math (which has been used over the past several years) and the rise in math scores. Mr. Dunn stated that the state of Texas has recently rejected EveryDay Math. Ms. Boyen stated that the Texas state standards are very different from California's. Ms. Boyen referred to the Strategic Plan, in which the focus is to have staff development and benchmarks assessments. If we have different adoptions and philosophies, it breaks down the system. Ms. Boyen outlined the staff development opportunities for the new adoption. Mr. Dunn asked about Singapore Math, which is being used in Los Angeles. Ms. Boyen stated that our teachers felt that the program offers limited standards, with little depth, and an inadequate teachers' guide.

Business Services

- B. 2008-2009 Budget Information. Dr. Baarstad presented a report on the budget and fielded questions from the Board regarding proposed cuts throughout the District, beginning with the 2008/2009 school year. Dr. Baarstad stated that he will be meeting with all schools, departments, DAC, to discuss this proposal. Cuts will be prioritized as will restorations. *(Copies of the report may be obtained from the Business Services office at 805-497-9511, extension 206.)*
- C. November 2008 Tax Initiative. Dr. Baarstad provided information regarding parcel tax. A parcel tax is a fixed dollar amount per parcel, which is defined by the assessor's map. One of the differences between a parcel tax and general obligation bond (GOB) is that a GOB can only be used for capital facilities, whereas a parcel tax may be used for on-going operations. A parcel tax requires a 2/3 vote of the electorate, and the statement on the ballot must state the amount proposed, what the funds will be used for, and the length of time the tax will be proposed. We would recommend exempting senior citizens (over 65). To put a tax on the ballot, the Board would have to pass a resolution 90 days prior to the election. In order to offset declining enrollment and on-going expenditures on technology, primarily at school sites, we propose a \$60/parcel parcel tax, to generate \$2.5 million per year. Unfortunately, five years ago, our district did a public opinion research survey (randomly surveying 400 registered voters) regarding a parcel tax, and our support eroded significantly at \$25/parcel. The study said without a significant effort by the school district to go out into the public and educate the community, the company did not see a parcel tax passing. There are three options we could consider: 1) go forward without a survey; 2) do a survey to see if there's been a significant change in public opinion; and 3) take this idea off the table. Another alternative is a sales tax override. The city would have to take the lead on this, and in talking with them, if it was possible, it would not be in effect for at least three years. To our knowledge, a sales tax override has never been done in California. Ms. Didio, Beaubien, and Phelps stated their concern that a parcel tax initiative would not be successful based on previous experience. Mr. Dunn asked about the cost to put this on the ballot; Dr. Baarstad stated because this is a general election year, about \$20-30,000. Mrs. Beaubien stated that she would only consider this if a survey would be used. Mr. Dunn stated that he thought it should be done. Mr. Contini stated that he asked his

Cabinet as what point do we do due diligence to explore the options in regard to revenue generation in light of closing two schools in 2009. The Board’s motion to close two schools included the pledge that if we experience sufficient increase in enrollment, or if we find other significant revenue sources, we would rescind the decision to close two schools. Given that part of the motion, at what point do we determine we have exhausted all avenues to satisfy this pledge to our community? It seems that the only option we have to make sure is to conduct a survey. Ms. Didio stated her doubt that a parcel tax would be successful, and would rather find an adequate, stable, on-going stream of income, such as a sales tax. Mr. Dunn stated that we could place a parcel tax on the ballot this November, whereas a sales tax would take two to three years (according to the City) before it would be on the ballot. Mr. Dunn said that we owe it to those parents whose schools we just closed to make every effort to raise revenue to keep the schools open. Dr. Baarstad stated that staff will return with a survey proposal and more information regarding a sales tax.

REPORTS AND CONCERNS

- A. Report from the Strategic Plan Committees: There were none.
- B. Report from the Superintendent: There were none.
- C. Report from the Personnel Commission: There were none.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Beaubien adjourned the Open Session at 10:05 p.m. The Board will reconvene on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. for Open Session.

April 15, 2008

Date

Clerk

April 15, 2008

Date

Superintendent

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