

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

April 12, 2005  
**MINUTES**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Conejo Valley Unified School District Board of Education met in Regular Session on April 12, 2005, at the District Office Board Room, 1400 East Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, California.

**ROLL CALL**

Present were Board members Dorothy L. Beaubien, Dolores Didio, Michael A. Dunn, Patricia H. Phelps, and Dr. Timothy G. Stephens. Also present were Dr. Robert Fraisse, Superintendent, Dr. Richard Simpson, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, Dr. Jody Dunlap, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, and Dr. Jeffrey Baarstad, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services. Chuck Eklund, Director, Secondary Education, Linda Faverty, Director, Elementary Education, Martha Mutz, Director, Curriculum, and Janet Cosaro, Director, Special Education, were also present.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Closed Session meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Dr. Timothy Stephens, President. The Board discussed the following items:

1. Appointment/employment of Certificated: Teachers; Classified: Child Care Assistants, Child Nutrition Assistant I, Clerk Typist, Maintenance Worker II, Paraprofessionals/Special Ed, Substitutes; Exempt: Specialists, Campus Supervisors, Student Helpers, Athletic Coaches, and Proctors. (Government Code §54957)
2. Consideration of Pupil Personnel matters (Education Code §35146).
3. Final purchase agreement for the Via Dorado site by California State University Northridge. (Government Code §54959.8)

The Closed Session ended at 5:50 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Stephens called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Stephens read announcements that reviewed instructions regarding smoking, cell phones, Speaker's Cards, Public Statement Cards, and Board procedures.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the agenda with the following changes: pull A.R. #8 Approval of Sale, Purchase and Escrow Agreement for the Via Dorado site with California State University, Northridge; pull A.R. #17 Award of Contract: Sequoia Middle School and Wildwood Elementary School—Phase 1 Modernization; submit the final report A.R. #16 Award of Contract: Madroña Administrative Office Modernization and Newbury Park High School Classroom Rehabilitation; and move Opening Provisions topic #G Report from Conejo Schools Foundation: Dianne McKay, President, under Opening Provisions #C Approval of Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0.

**REPORT FROM CONEJO SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**

Dianne McKay, President, introduced several of the Foundation's newest board members in the audience and thanked them for their service (Mr. Rick Lemmo, Mrs. Liz McLaughlin, and Mr. Manny Valdez). Ms. McKay discussed the Foundation's elementary summer school enrichment program that is being offered this year and gave examples of some of the great programs and classes that will be offered to the students. The Foundation is also providing sponsorship of the All-District Band Festival, which will be held at the Civic Arts Plaza Kavli Theater May 2, 4, and 5. Ms. McKay ended her presentation with a \$50,000 installment of the Foundation's pledge to help preserve K-12 class size reduction, elementary school counseling and secondary remedial reading programs with an intent to present the remaining \$50,000 of the pledge as soon as fundraising goals are met.

**RECOGNITIONS**

The Board recognized and thanked the following Eagle Scouts for their projects:

Ian James Miller, Newbury Park High School, painted the ticket booth and the snack shack; John Grayson Pollock of Newbury Park High School, landscaped the front of the school, integrating existing plants and shrubs; Travis H. Heller of Thousand Oaks High School, cleaned and prepared an area for new grass and planted shrubbery, enhancing curb appeal at Redwood Middle School; and Daniel Nicholson Murch of Thousand Oaks High School, restored the P.E./Student Store shed and made additional improvements to walk areas.

Janet Cosaro presented a SELPA Autism Certification to Julie Conway, and commended Ms. Conway for her dedication to her students.

**REPORTS FROM STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES**

Danielle McCall, representing Conejo Valley/Century High Schools, was seated with the Board. Danielle, along with Chuddy Elhawary, Westlake High School and Katie Smith, Newbury Park High School, reported on campus events such as fundraisers, rallies, dances, assemblies, band, choral and theater events, club events, ASG/ASB events, AP testing, School-to-Career events, Spirit Night, graduation plans and the Youth Congress. Bryn Sowa, Thousand Oaks High School, was not present.

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dianne McKay, Chair, District Advisory Council, provided definition of what DAC is: a group whose membership is made of one representative from every school in the district through their school site council. Ms. McKay expressed the unanimous vote in support of the District's choice to proceed with the facilities master plan of quality buildings. Ms. McKay expressed appreciation for the following presentations at the last DAC meeting: ASB leadership at Colina Middle School, Madroña Elementary School's Broadcast Network, "hands on" science program at Westlake Elementary School, the at-risk teen program at Thousand Oaks High School, and the "We the People" program from the Center for Civic Education. The next DAC meeting will be April 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Dianne McKay, Vice President, Conejo Council PTA, reported for Sue Wells, President. The following students were recipients of PTA scholarships this year: Ava Amini, Sabrina Chaudhury, Tyffany Chen, Burleigh Drummond, Shalra Hameed, Lauren Russel, Nicole Berman, Andrew Hatfield and Nanyi Zhang. Ms. McKay mentioned that around 40 delegates from Conejo PTA will be attending the California State PTA convention in Sacramento this year, which will have presentations on topics such as Bullying, Fighting Obesity, and Leadership Tools. The delegates will be voting on five proposed

resolutions: Class Size Reduction Flexibility, Credential School Nurses, Education—A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Vision, Media Materials as it relates to Youth, and Sun Safety. The Council is also preparing to send a delegation to Sacramento to speak with legislators regarding the budget. The report ended with a citing of the many charitable donations PTA makes to agencies such as the tsunami relief, Abilities Awareness, Crop Walk, and blankets for children in trauma situations at hospitals.

Lorraine O'Neill, Bond Facility Projects District Advisory Committee Chair, reported from the meeting of March 10, where a revision to the by-laws was proposed to change the number of meetings from six to three. Dr. Baarstad and Sean Corrigan discussed the Major Project Lists for 2005-2006, which included the final Measure R Phase 1 modernizations projects at Aspen, Cypress, Westlake, Wildwood and Sequoia

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS**

Dr. Fraise: 1) thanked student Walker Fluke, Conejo Valley High School, for his letter to the editor (*Star*) regarding his appreciation for the educational opportunities he is receiving at CVHS. Dr. Fraise commented on the proposed relocation of CVHS to the joint facility with Moorpark College, and stated that we might consider calling it an academy; 2) expressed his gratitude to the dealerships at the Auto Mall, who recently presented our six Title 1 schools with \$16,500 checks each; 3) congratulated Susan Pease, Conejo Elementary School, for being selected as Teacher of the Month through the Chamber of Commerce's program. Dr. Fraise mentioned that Ms. Pease attributed her successful program to her peers; 4) applauded the Redwood Middle School team for their excellent presentation to the Distinguished School visiting committee, and commended Redwood's parent participation as a tremendous partnership with the school's staff.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Anne Howard, Counselor, Los Cerritos Middle School, Susan Falk, President, UACT, and Jerry Morris, Vice President, UACT, spoke in favor of the Board's Resolution #04/05-20 In Support of Proposition 98 and In Opposition to the Governor's Proposed Budget.

Cathy Carlson, Thousand Oaks, voiced her concerns about unhealthy snacks available to students through the vending machines and events at the schools.

Suzanne Duckett, Thousand Oaks, discussed her concern regarding the stress on students when they have to take state mandated exams.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mrs. Beaubien congratulated Redwood Middle School for their excellent presentation during the Distinguished school visitation and reinforced her support of the Board's Resolution #04/05-20 In Support of Proposition 98 and In Opposition to the Governor's Proposed Budget with the following statements: the Governor broke his promises to pay back the money he borrowed and that he would support Proposition 98; our state ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation in per-pupil spending and schools are forced to increase class sizes and cut programs in order to survive; students are our most valuable resource and should be our priority; and we are lucky to have a superintendent and staff who have worked hard to protect cuts in the classrooms.

Mrs. Didio echoed Mrs. Beaubien's remarks, and added that the Governor needs to look for new solutions to the budget problem, needs to keep his promises, and not put money into new programs until

the debts are paid. Mrs. Didio asked that the Governor not make mandates that are not funded and to keep his word to pay back the money that belongs to the schools.

Mrs. Phelps also spoke in favor of Resolution #04/05-20 and thanked everyone for their support. She also discussed the Conejo Substance Abuse Prevention Authority (CSAPA) meeting and provided that community service information line: 211. There are a lot of resources through CSAPA, and Mrs. Phelps encourages community members in need to contact them. Mrs. Phelps also would like to bring forth information regarding research-based mathematics program for parents to learn more.

Dr. Stephens thanked Anne Howard, Susan Falk and Jerry Morris for their support of Resolution #04/05-20 In Support of Proposition 98 and In Opposition to the Governor's Proposed Budget. Dr. Stephens discussed per pupil funding of \$6-7,000, asking the Governor to reconsider his original position on the budget. Dr. Stephens also gave praise to Brenda Hunter, Executive Director of Neighborhood for Learning (NfL) and currently running for Grand Marshall of Conejo Valley Days. Ms. Hunter has brought community focus on the NfL program, which benefits that dynamic preschool program.

### **ADJUST BOARD CALENDAR**

Mrs. Didio moved to adjust the Board meeting schedule for the 2005 calendar year as follows: cancel the regularly-scheduled meeting of July 26, August 9, and December 27, 2005, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #1 filed.

### **PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENT ORDERS**

Mrs. Beaubien moved to accept personnel assignment orders: Certificated #7065 to #7076; Classified #C-2557 to #C-2570; and Exempt #E-5831 to #E-5873, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

### **AMEND POLICY #156.2**

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the amendment of Board Policy 156.2 Conflict of Interest – Designated Positions (Second Reading), seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #2 filed.

### **RESOLUTION – DAY OF THE TEACHER**

Mrs. Didio moved to adopt a resolution declaring May 11, 2005, as the “Day of the Teacher,” seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #3 filed.

### **RESOLUTION – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES WEEK**

Mrs. Beaubien moved to adopt a resolution declaring May 15-21, 2005, as “Classified Employees Week,” seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Mrs. Beaubien praised the work and support of the classified personnel. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #4 filed.

### **COLINA BANKING TIME**

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the Colina Middle School pilot banking time schedule for the 2005-2006 school year, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Mrs. Didio commented that this was another example of staff and community working together for the benefit of students. Dr. Stephens thanked Principal Mike Waters and his staff for “leading the charge” in this area. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #5 filed.

### **GRADE LEVEL CONFIGURATIONS**

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the conversion of Acacia Elementary School from a K-6 school to a K-5 school effective with the 2005/2006 school year, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #6

filed.

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the conversion of Walnut Elementary School from a K-6 school to a K-5 school effective with the 2005/2006 school year, seconded by Mrs. Beaubien. Motion carried 5-0. A.R. #7 filed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mrs. Beaubien moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2005. A.R.s filed: A.R. #9 Expulsion Westlake High School #23-04/05E; A.R. #10 Expulsion Westlake High School #33-04/05E; A.R. #11 Contract for Non-Public School Placement for Handicapped Student #22-04/05E; A.R. #12 Boat Trip – Westlake High School Marine Science Class; A.R. #13 Purchase Order Report #662; A.R. #14 Acceptance of Cash and/or Equipment Donations; A.R. #15 Resolution #04/05-22: Authorizing Issuance of 2005 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes, and Agreement with Financial Advisor; A.R. #16 Award of Contract: Madroña Administrative Office Modernization and Newbury Park High School Classroom Rehabilitation.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **A. Instructional Services**

1. Amendment of Board Policy 394-394.3: Title I Program and Parent Involvement.
2. Small Secondary Magnet School Task Force. Dr. Fraisse expressed the interest from Goals Committee #3 to explore the pros and cons of a nation-wide trend to provide smaller high schools. The task force would: 1) read, review and discuss research in this area; 2) visit several local and state program to observe changes, challenges and successes; 3) participate in focus groups with District parents, teachers, classified representative and community members to assess where our needs are; and 4) return to the Board with a recommendation. The recommended composition of the task force, appointed by their own constituency, is a minimum of (1) Board member; (1) DAC member, (1) PTA member; (1) teacher; (1) classified employee; (1) CVPPA representative; (1) administrator, (1) business community member, (2) additional community members at large, selected by the Board.

Mrs. Didio stated that this is a trend and there is a need to look at various options to deliver the high school programs in order to provide opportunities for the students. Mrs. Phelps suggested that there be representation from the students, also. Mrs. Beaubien stated that because of financial restrictions, we aren't always able to offer students opportunities that may be available in a smaller setting. Dr. Stephens commended the District for forward thinking, and mentioned visits to other magnet school settings. He also suggested bringing in practitioners who have "been there, done that."

### **REPORTS AND CONCERNS**

1. Items of Legislation: Dr. Simpson discussed some of the items in the Governor's budget that need to be looked at more closely. One area of concern is the shifting costs of mental health services. In the past, the county has absorbed some of the costs; the new budget is proposing a shift of all the costs to the school districts with only some of the funding shifted to the school districts. In our District, this impact would amount to \$300,000 - \$500,000. Mrs. Didio pointed out that this is another example of the Governor's budget proposal to take financial support away from the schools and not replacing it with an equitable funding source.

Dr. Stephens asked Dr. Fraise about information regarding a parcel tax. Dr. Fraise stated that this is one way the community can support their schools and discussed the current California ruling that it takes a 2/3 vote to pass a local parcel tax. Recently, Oak Park and Las Virgenes passed parcel taxes, thereby giving the school districts a considerable income increase. The Board may be asked to consider a resolution asking that California parcel taxes may be voted in with 50% vote.

Cathy Carlson discussed the food handling laws, laws regarding school volunteers, and the Brown Act for public speakers at public meetings, specifically the Family Life Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Stephens adjourned the regular session at 7:35 p.m. The Board will convene on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session and 6:00 p.m. for Regular Session.

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April 26, 2005  
Date Clerk

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April 26, 2005  
Date Secretary

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