

**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL DISCUSSION SESSION**

**JUNE 14, 2016
MINUTES**

MEETING

The Conejo Valley Unified School District Board of Education met on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 3:30 p.m., at 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks, CA, in the Board Conference Room. The topic of this discussion was the Conejo Valley Learning Center Relocation Project.

ROLL CALL

Present were Board members John Andersen, Peggy Buckles, Dr. Betsy Connolly, Mike Dunn, and President Pat Phelps. Staff present were Dr. Ann Bonitatibus, Superintendent, Robert Iezza, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional Services, Mark McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, Dr. Jon Sand, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, David Fateh, Director, Planning & Construction, Jeanne Valentine, Director, Elementary Education, James Garza, Director, Secondary Education, Dr. Michelle Morse, Director, Special Education, Mike Sanders, Principal, Adult Education, Martin Manzer, Principal, Conejo Valley High School (CVHS) and Century Academy, and Karla DiDomizio, Assistant Principal, Century Academy.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE

President Phelps called the Special Meeting to order and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance. At 3:40 p.m. she asked if there were any Public Comments. There were 57 speaker cards submitted. Due to the number of speakers, President Phelps adjusted the length of time for public comments to allow the Board adequate time to conduct business. President Phelps allotted 2 minutes per speaker, with an overall time limit of 30 minutes.

AGENDA

Comments from the Public:

There were 12 speakers total that were heard, as 3 speakers yielded their time to other speakers. At 3:41 p.m., the speaker was yielded time from the 1st speaker, passed hand-outs to the Board and spoke against the current CVLC Relocation Project options. The 2nd speaker, a student who graduated from Century Academy this year, told the Board how much the school had helped her succeed. The 3rd speaker said he did not have any children and had initially been afraid when he heard the continuation school may be coming to his neighborhood. He thanked the Board, specifically Dr. Connolly, for opening his eyes to the positive reality of the continuation school's students, saying he is no longer afraid of the possibility of CVHS relocating near his home. The 4th speaker said she wants the original plan to go forth by having a new school built for CVHS, instead of relocating the schools. The 5th speaker yielded time to her husband, owner of the Carden School. This individual said he and his wife are both educators and good tenants, having always been current on their lease payments. He stated they were not given the opportunity to fully discuss all the options or explore a business plan, and that there is an interested potential 3rd party purchaser, which may be a good option to choose. They would like to sit down and discuss all possibilities. The 6th speaker said he does not want increased noise or traffic in his neighborhood, which may end up being a result of moving the schools. The 7th speaker stated her son attends Carden and she wants it to remain, as Carden's

academic program has been valuable to her son and the other students attending. The 8th speaker, who lives in “Village Homes”, close to Carden, walked around the neighborhood to get more insight, knocking on more than 100 doors. This individual said that the people he spoke to are concerned about issues such as an increase in traffic, changes to the character of the neighborhood, and property values. The 9th speaker, a retired teacher from Michigan, also resides in “Village Homes” as of this past September, next to the Carden school. This individual said she and her husband were attracted to the neighborhood because of the quiet atmosphere, similar to that of Westlake Village, and what appealed to them was the “wide open spaces” feeling. She does not want anything to occur that would disrupt her neighborhood. The 10th speaker yielded time from another speaker. She stated she represented a group of parents from Carden, and that she and the individual who yielded time to her are both Co-Presidents of the Carden Conejo Parents Association (CCPA). She asked if she could submit a petition signed by more than 1,000 people obtained in 2 weeks, all against the plan to end Carden’s lease and relocate schools. She handed the Board her petition, which was presented in three binders. The final speaker, upon hearing he was the last speaker that would be called, yielded his time to a Horizon Hills parent. The 12th speaker said the community, including Horizon Hills and Carden parents, want an alternative solution, as she has gotten over 795 signatures petitioning Option 1 and Option 2 of the current plan options.

Community member Cathy Carlson stood up to speak, although her card was not called. She addressed the Board regarding The Brown Act, and requested the Board extend the time limit past thirty minutes. President Phelps denied her request to extend past thirty minutes. Another individual stood up and said the Agenda did not specify a thirty minute time limit for speakers.

Comments from the Board:

Mike Dunn asked if the Board President sets the time limit. President Phelps affirmed that yes, she set it. Dr. Connolly addressed the audience stating this meeting was for the Board to discuss options and that if the Board was not able to do so, they should close the meeting. She also requested the audience remain respectful and not interfere with the Board’s discussion, as that limits their ability to fully discuss this matter.

Comments from the Superintendent:

Dr. Bonitatibus addressed the audience describing in detail that the original plan for completing the Conejo Valley Learning Center (CVLC) was no longer an option, and other options would have to be pursued. The Learning Center consists of three components: (1) CVHS, which must be relocated due to the sale of the current facility that we are leasing; (2) Century Academy; a hybrid school consisting of both online and face-to-face coursework; and (3) The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center, a center for students pursuing college and career tracks, making them ready for higher education or employment when they graduate. Dr. Bonitatibus continued by describing the process thus far and how to move forward. The staff had evaluated various options and held a Board meeting on May 3, 2016 to preview ideas, and an information session was held on May 17, 2016. Taking a pause after the May 17th meeting, the Board heard from the community. Plans for the ad hoc committee consist of having research and additional work completed no later than August 26, 2016, with a final recommendation no later than September 6, 2016. The committee will hold an organizational meeting and at least three additional regular working meetings, a minimum of two community forums will be hosted. These meetings will be held to engage the community. All written documents and digital resources will be available on the CVLC Relocation Project webpage. The committee will be facilitated by Mark McLaughlin, and will also include the new Asst. Superintendent for Business Services, a district-level administrator, a representative from the Measure I oversight committee, a parent representative from DAC or PTA, one teacher representative from UACT, and two site principals. It was suggested that those who wish to be a part of the committee from Carden, Village Homes, and Horizon

Hills identify one or two point persons to serve as liaisons for each group. At 4:29 p.m., Dr. Bonitatibus concluded by stating she looks forward to the committee’s work and the community’s input, and turned the meeting over to President Phelps.

Discussion:

At 4:30 p.m. the Board discussed the upcoming meeting, and Dr. Connolly suggested that a member from Adult Education be present. Ms. Buckles asked David Fateh how much space is needed for Conejo Valley High School (CVHS). Mr. Fateh responded that they would need approximately 10 portables, and the cost would be approximately \$2 million for the relocation of CVHS. He also stated there is around \$9-10 million in surplus funds available. Principal Manzer (CVHS) stated there are 182 students per year at the high school, with enrollment declining annually. The impact of not having CVHS would mean that 230 students may not have graduated without CVHS.

Mike Dunn stated that there are currently 104 students at CVHS and 175 students at Carden School; 1050 school districts in California and 462 continuation schools. Mr. Dunn then said that between 6-10 continuation schools close every year in California.

At 5:09 p.m. President Phelps inquired about the possibility of purchasing the Carden land back. At 5:11 p.m. Ms. Buckles stated that was not feasible.

Principal Martin stated that 42 CVHS students graduated this year and that his students are really the victims here. Mr. Dunn said there were 232 students at CVHS in 2010 and asked Principal Martin for the reasons of decline in enrollment. Mr. Martin responded that it may be due to the Exit Exam, and that there is an overall enrollment decline in the entire district, not just at CVHS.

Principal Mike Sanders added that labeling CVHS students limits them, and it shouldn’t be done.

Upon discussing the usage of portables, Mr. Fateh said that each portable costs \$70,000 per unit, not including other costs. The approximate total per portable unit would be \$150-200k, and that 10 portables would be needed. John Andersen responded that he is not in support of using portables as a long term solution. Mr. Dunn replied that of all the 3 options, he will never support Option 1 or Option 2.

Robert Iezza clarified that CVHS is not for expelled students from other high schools, as students are referred to CVHS for other reasons.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board is Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 4:15 p.m. for Discussion Session, 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. for Open (Regular) Session.

Date

Clerk

Date

Superintendent