

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

June 17, 2008
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION

The Board meeting of June 17, 2008, was called to order by President Dorothy Beaubien at 4:35 p.m. at Newbury Park High School, 456 Reino Road, Newbury Park, Building G-1. 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 4:36 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 4:55 p.m. There were no announcements from Closed Session.

CALL TO ORDER**OPENING PROVISIONS**

Mrs. Beaubien called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m. at Newbury Park High School Performing Arts Center, 456 Reino Road, Newbury Park, led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the procedural announcements.

Present were Board members Dorothy Beaubien, Dolores Didio, Mike Dunn, Pat Phelps, and Dr. Timothy Stephens. Administration: Mario V. Contini, Superintendent, Jo-Ann Yoos, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, and Janet Cosaro, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services. Bob Iezza, Director, Elementary Education Max Beaman, Secondary Education, Carol Boyan, Director, Curriculum, were also present.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the agenda with the following amendment: under III. I., Page 78, Approval of 2008/09 Consolidated Application, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

Comments from the Superintendent

Mr. Contini had no comments.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the Public. (All comments regarding school closure/budget cuts were addressed at 6:00 p.m. under the agenda topic.)

Comments from Individual Board Members

There were no comments.

ACTION ITEMS - GENERAL**Board of Education****A. Approval of the CSBA 6168 Board Policies and Administration Regulations, Charter Schools (First Reading) (Sent under separate cover to the Board – available upon request to the staff and public)**

Mrs. Phelps moved to adopt the CSBA 6178 policies and administrative regulations regarding Charter Schools, seconded by Mr. Dunn. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Approval of the CSBA 1230 School-Connected Organizations Board Policies and Administrative Regulations (First Reading) (Sent under separate cover to the Board – available upon request to the staff and public)

Dr. Stephens moved to adopt the CSBA 1230 policies and administrative regulations that are integrated with CVUSD 835, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Approval of the CSBA 6146 Board Policies and Administrative Regulations (First Reading) (Sent under separate cover to the Board – available upon request to the staff and public)

Dr. Stephens moved to adopt CSBA 6146 policies and administrative regulations that are integrated with CVUSD 344.5, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Mrs. Phelps stated that there was a modification, so the motion should state as amended. Mrs. Phelps also stated that she still wanted the policy to show that just because you've been in a school for a year, doesn't mean you should be moved up a year. Testing requirements should also be stated. Mrs. Cosaro said she would consult more with secondary principals and bring it back to the next meeting. The Board decided to table this item until the meeting of July 1, 2008, to include revisions requested.

Personnel Services**D. Approve Resolution #07/08-32: Reduction of Classified Positions**

Dr. Stephens moved to approve Resolution #07/08-32-Reduction of Classified Positions as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Changes in Custodial Staffing for Horizon Hills Adult School and Special Education

Mrs. Phelps moved to reduce a vacant custodian position #2-215-100 from 12 mo/8 hr to 12 mo/3.75 hr to be funded by and assigned to the Adult Education program, and establish a new 12 mo/3.75 hr custodian position #2-215-138 to be funded by and assigned to the Special Education program, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

Instructional Services**A. Approval of New High School Pilot Course: American Sign Language 3**

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the pilot course: American Sign Language 3, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Approval of New High School Pilot Course: Entrepreneurship

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

C. Approval of Permanent Status for Pilot Course: Chinese 3

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the pilot course: Chinese 3, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Approval of Permanent Status for Pilot Course: Geographic Information Systems

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the pilot course: Geographic Information Systems, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Approval of Permanent Status for Pilot Course: AP Human Geography

Dr. Stephen moved to approve the pilot course: AP Human Geography, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Approval of School Schedules 2008/2009

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the 2008/2009 school schedules as attached, seconded by Dr. Stephens. Motion carried 5-0.

G. Approval of Sequoia Middle School – Banking Time Schedule

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the Sequoia Middle School pilot banking time schedule for the 2008-2009 school year, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Dr. Stephens applauded the staff and principal for taking this step. Mrs. Phelps asked if they are only offering three periods per semester. Mrs. Cosaro stated that they alternate periods 1, 2, and 3, and then 4, 5, 6. Mrs. Cosaro asked if this could be tabled until the report reflected the full information. The Board decided to table this item until July 1, 2008.

H. Approval of Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Application

Mrs. Didio moved to approve the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) application, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Motion carried 5-0.

I. Approval of 2008/09 Consolidated Application (Item added to the agenda)

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the 2008/09 preliminary Consolidated Application, seconded by Mrs. Didio. Motion carried 5-0.

Business Services

J. 2009-2010 Elementary School Closure/Budget Reductions (Addressed by the Board at 6:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Didio moved to reject the expenditure reductions and income shifts for implementation in the 2009-2010 District Adopted Budget as submitted, and that we maintain and reaffirm the March 18, 2008, decision to close Meadows and University Elementary Schools in the fall of 2009 as a final and binding decision. We direct staff to implement the closure decision and continue to work with the staff and parents of Meadows and University Elementary Schools, and designated receiving schools, to ensure a successful transition process. And even with school closure, continue efforts to increase future District enrollment, including the development of junior kindergarten, magnet elementary schools, pre-school and expanded child care programs, and district-sponsored independent study and home-school education options. Motion seconded by Mrs. Phelps. Dr. Baarstad clarified the options as outlined in the report. *(This report may be obtained through the Business Services Division.)* Public comment cards: 2 regarding general discussion, 28 speakers did not support school closure, 42 supported school closure. Public Written Statement Cards: 9 did not support school closure, 90 supported school closure.

Dr. Stephens opened discussion by stating that both options are disastrous for the District. Dr. Stephens believes that in closing the schools, the district will be losing money four ways: to the charter, to private schools, home schools, and to other districts. And, this Charter may not be the only charter to open in the District. He believes that the district should try to attract students away from these alternatives, not close schools to have parents make that choice. Dr. Stephens suggests the following to increase enrollment: create magnet schools, expand pre-school and child care, re-establish a viable high school program, and actively market our district especially to those who have left. He suggested that we place period ads in the *Acorn* and the *Ventura County Star*, use TOTV, brochures and visit with local organizations such as Rotary, Chamber, and others. He stated that instead of making a decision to decrease enrollment, he would like to take steps to increase enrollment. Mrs. Didio stated that she agreed with much of Dr. Stephens's statements, and what has come out of this process are great ideas to improve our schools. At the same time, we do have declining enrollment. Our goal is a quality education for all students, and how best to do this and be fiscally responsible, is very difficult. We just recently cut \$4 million out

of our budget, and some were one-time cuts. We have not put money aside for deferred maintenance, and that will come back to us when our facilities begin to fall (again). We reduced staffing and put a freeze on hires. Charter Schools will take students from our district, and will cause problems for the rest of our District. A magnet collapses boundaries and may help increase enrollment. We could operate this district with 18 elementary schools and provide a quality education to students throughout the district. From the state level, we need adequate, stable funding. Mrs. Phelps stated that a lot has been said about innovation, and from the very beginning, the concept of a magnet school was a great idea and all the Board asked was that it be moved to another school. Why? (To use an analogy) if my family was facing an economic downturn, and I could offer my children everything that they were used to but it meant that we would have to move to another house, or stay in our same house and lose everything, then I would move to the other house. And that's what we are asking people to do. Many people have said that the District is "pitting" one group against another. The District has never meant to be divisive. The Board started the process trying to be as open as possible. It's not the Board who has been divisive, but the people who have made this divisive. Mrs. Phelps explained that pilot courses do not cost the district money, they are innovative and attractive students to our schools. Mr. Dunn stated that closing Meadows will not save the District money, this issue will not end tonight because the final budget vote will not take place until June 16, 2009, and dramatic budget changes can happen between now and then. The next elected Board is not bound by decisions made by this Board tonight. If this Board votes to close Meadows, those parents will open a charter. Instead of saving the district over \$800,000, it will only save the district \$18,000. If we close University, we may not save any money. Those parents have told him that 100 students at University will leave the District and attend the Charter school. The cost to the district will be over \$575,000. Mr. Dunn stated if the District closes Manzanita, and re-open it as an arts magnet, and attract 200 students from outside the district, we will make additional revenue of \$1,100,000. A second issue that Dr. Stephens mentioned, why are 476 students requesting to leave our district for other public schools in neighboring districts? We need to interview those people and find out why. We lose \$2,237,000. Finally, he asked about the \$150,000 cut from coaches' salaries. Why was the Associate Director of Pupil Services reinstated, and not eliminated as originally recommended by staff? Another issue presented by the Board was to reduce the Dean of Attendance, with a savings of \$152,000 per year. Those of you who recommended that we look at other areas instead of coaches' stipends should look into these issues. Mrs. Phelps commented that unfortunately Mr. Dunn was not able to attend the budget discussion meeting, and if he had, he would have been part of the discussion about retaining the directorship position and the dean positions. We did not do take these things lightly. Mr. Dunn stated that the meeting should have been scheduled when he could have attended. Mrs. Phelps remarked that he was on vacation. She asked how many students come to our district from other districts. Mrs. Cosaro stated 386 students. Mrs. Beaubien commented that a building is just a building, but the students and teachers and families make the school. She agreed with many of Dr. Stephens' statements, but commented that putting some of the actions in place, even now, would not be in time to keep the schools open. The issue regarding opening class size is a negotiable issue with the teachers, and cutting administrative positions when we are already below the average is not taken lightly. Mrs. Beaubien stated that there has been so much talk about Meadows, but very little about University. Either both schools stay open or both schools will be closed. Dr. Stephens asked to amend the motion, but his motion was not an amendment but another motion entirely. Mr. Dunn asked if the board wanted to delay a decision to see if the enrollment plans work. Mrs. Didio stated that cuts need to be on-going and severe, and that one time cuts cannot work.

Mr. Contini applauded Dr. Baarstad, his staff, and the Facilities Committee for their total dedication and hard work these past two years. He asked to share a few comments around three areas related to the agenda item: 1) Concerns expressed about listening, caving to pressure, indecision and divisiveness, 2) Concerns and fears that families will leave the District based on any decision reached. 3) A recommendation with respect to the options presented in the staff report.

Mr. Contini addressed the Board. "For several months, you have received an abundance of information from staff and the public, and you have analyzed the data. Some have misinterpreted your careful analysis as caving into pressure, being indecisive, and a cause for division in our CVUSD family. You are supposed to analyze information, listen and allow your decisions to be influenced by persuasive points of view from the public. You are supposed to weigh a number of complex issues that can cause you to adjust your position on issues. You are even supposed to disagree once in a while. That is not indecision. That is not caving to pressure. To have done

otherwise would have been to raise the problem, made a rash decision, and end all discussion. There would have been no purpose for public input. I applaud you for caring and listening and allowing your positions in this very important and complex matter to be influenced by data and persuasive points of view. That is what democracy at the decision maker's level is all about.

Similarly, I ask that we all take a step back and realize that parents and groups of parents are supposed to share the concerns about things like school closure and budget cuts that could adversely affect their children. It is okay for them to see things differently because closure and cuts affects their children differently. I applaud parents for sharing those concerns because that is not divisiveness. That is the democratic process working at the public input level. Ultimately, it is not the problem or solution that is divisive, it is whether we face it together or apart.

Parents on both sides of this issue have said they would remove their child from our schools if your decision as a Board did not concur with their point of view. Even though they may find a suitable alternative elsewhere, this is one of the finest school districts in the United States and programs that are being implemented over the next two years will make it even better. Although the potential exodus of students from the District is something to consider seriously, in the long run it is very dangerous and imprudent to allow this decision to be dominated by the fear that one group will leave the district if you decide one way and another group will leave if you decide the other way. Allowing this to dominate your decision would undermine all the work you have done to analyze and weigh all factors. It would undermine how intently you listened with compassion to the sincere concerns and perspectives shared by so many parents over the past several months. It would set the stage for fear of disenrollment dominating board decisions for years to come, rather than comprehensive analysis, wisdom and courage.

It's time to decide. It's time for all of us, the board, the staff and our wonderful parents, to come together and exercise the wisdom and courage needed to do what we believe is not only in the best interest of those children who have been so well-represented at the podium and through emails, but also to do what is in the best interest of all of our students at all of our school. It is time to decide what is in the best long term interest of fiscal solvency and our commitment to maintain and build upon the highest quality programs found anywhere in the U.S., programs our kids need and deserve and our parents expect.

The May Revision of the Governor's budget is better than his January proposal, but still worse than projections when the Board decided to close two schools last Fall. As a result, cuts will still be necessary for the next two years just to balance the budget. To keep all schools open, significant additional cuts will be necessary for several years into the future. Even with the closure of the two schools and the implementation of several enrollment incentives, somewhere between 1,000 and 1,800 of the 2,200 expected decline in enrollment will still be unresolved and the impact on all 22,000 students will be profound even for those in the schools proposed for closure. Weighing all factors, I am compelled to recommend that the Board uphold its earlier decision."

Motion carried 3-2 (Yes: Beaubien, Didio, Phelps; No: Dunn, Stephens)

ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

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

A. Approval of Minutes (in Section B of the Agenda packet)

1. Regular Meeting of June 3, 2008

B. Personnel Assignment Orders:

1. Certificated: 8106-8112

Administrators, Teachers

2. Classified: C-4201 to C-4232

Child Care Assistant, Child Care Assistant-Substitute, Child Care Leader-Substitute, Child Nutrition Assistant I, Clerk Typist-Substitute, Credentials Technician, Custodian-Substitute, Family Services Coordinator/Bilingual-Spanish, Instructional Media Technician, Instructional Media Technician-Substitute, Intermediate Clerk Typist-Substitute, Paraprofessional/Special Education, Pre-School Assistant Teacher, Pre-School Assistant Teacher-Substitute, School Office Manager-Substitute

3. Exempt: E-8030 to E-8095
Campus Supervisor, Coach, Proctor, Specialist, Student Helper
- C. Expulsions:
 1. Conejo Valley High School #58-07/08E
 2. Newbury Park High School #59-07/08E
 3. Newbury Park High School #60-07/08E
 4. Conejo Valley High School #61-07/08E
 5. Conejo Valley High School #62-07/08E
 6. Conejo Elementary School #63-07/08E
- D. Readmission of Expelled Students
 1. #12-07/08E
 2. #20-07/08E
 3. #22-07/08E
- E. Purchase Order Report #726
- F. Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment
- G. Maintenance & Operations – Petty Cash
- H. 2008-09 Annual Signature Authorization
- I. Awards of Contracts
 1. Park Oaks Elementary School – HVAC Replacement
 2. Conejo Elementary School – Replace Galvanized Piping
- J. Resolutions
 1. #07/08-25: Approval of Expense Transfers
 2. #07/08-26: Approval of Interfund Transfers
 3. #07/08-27: Appropriation of Unbudgeted Income to Reserves
 4. #07/08-28: Approval of Appropriation Transfers
 5. #07/08-29: Year-End Budget Transfers
 6. #07/08-30: Retroactive Salary Schedule Authorization
 7. #07/08-31: Approval of Temporary Loans Between District Funds

INFORMATION ITEMS

Business Services

- A. 2007-2008 Parent-Pay Transportation Program Status Report and 2008-2009 Parent-Pay Transportation Program. There was no discussion.
- B. 2008-2009 Civic Center Fee Schedule
- C. 2008-2009 Long Term Enrollment Projections. Dr. Baarstad provided a report regarding the projections. This report may be obtained on our website www@conejo.k12.ca.us.

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 9:28 p.m. The Board will reconvene at the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. for Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. for Open Session at the CVUSD South Building Board Room, 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

July 1, 2008

Date

Clerk

July 1, 2008

Date

Superintendent

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