



CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
South Building Board Room
1402 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 28, 2019

MINUTES

1. CLOSED SESSION

A. Public Comments

At 8:31 a.m., President Connolly announced that there were no comment cards submitted and the Board then convened into Closed Session.

B. Public Employee Appointment, Employment, Evaluation or Resignation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957- Superintendent's Quarterly Evaluation Update

Closed Session ended at 9:24 a.m.

2. OPEN SESSION

A. Call the Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Call to Order and Roll Call: President Connolly called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Board Members present: President Connolly, Cindy Goldberg, Bill Gorback, Sandee Everett and Jenny Fitzgerald.

Administration present: Dr. Mark McLaughlin, Superintendent; Victor Hayek, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services; Jeanne Valentine, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Lou Lichtl, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services and Dr. Lisa Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Approval of the Agenda

Mrs. Goldberg made the motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Gorback. President Connolly asked if there was any discussion, which there was none. **Motion carried 5-0.**

D. Comments - Public

President Connolly that there were no public comment cards submitted.

3. SPECIAL SESSION – BOARD RETREAT

A. Social media Issues / cell phone policy at our secondary sites

The Board and District staff discussed if there is an interest to go more in depth with District policy at specific school sites regarding social media issues and cell phone use. Further discussion included the option to partner with parents to make them aware of the impacts of social media on students, addressing rising concerns about student anxiety and depression in middle and high school students linked to cell phone usage and cyberbullying, teachers using cell phones as a classroom tool, student on-campus use and campus disruptions, teacher classroom management of cell phone usage, and exceptions to the rules. The Board also discussed the possibility of a class that teaches students about the dangers of cell phone usage.

President Connolly summarized the following:

- The Board is interested in the status of how the District is communication with parents and students about cell phone use and social media expectations.
- The Board is interested in how the District is handing devices being used in the classroom, the opportunity for learning, and the options for teachers to manage distractions.
- The Board is interested in whether the District is effectively collaborating with parents and students regarding the consequences of using social media.
- The Board is interesting in researching the policies that other district have in place
- The Board has asked staff to collect information on what our sites are currently doing regarding usage and storage.

B. Neighborhood priority for magnets

The Board and District staff discussed the neighborhood priority policies for the District's magnet schools, and how the priority processes differ. Further discussion included how to move forward, whether each magnet should have the same priority policy or differing policies, and which magnets have enrollment that has exceeded capacity. Dr. McLaughlin verified that Earths does not have priority for neighborhood residents, where Ladera does give priority.

The Board expressed interested in the following:

- Developing a system that respects neighborhood residents and creating a choice priority policy based on site.
- A deeper analysis of issues and concerns from both sides and in context to overall enrollment issues.
- Soliciting feedback from stakeholders regarding their interest in a future magnet theme or school branding.
- Discussing the option for the Earths boundaries prior to the opening of the interdistrict transfer period. Mr. Lichtl stated that the School Choice Committee will be reviewing the Board Policy and Administrative Regulation for possible revisions.

C. Our delivery of English learner instruction

The Board and District staff discussed whether the District is prepared to have English Learner instruction incorporated into all classrooms as part of the instructional day. Dr. McLaughlin mentioned that the District is currently looking at several different pilots – an embedded curriculum and a K-12 pull out version of ELD. Mr. Lichtl stated that the District is currently using a program called Wonders with an embedded approach, which is being piloted for K-5 for a trimester. During the second trimester, a program from Pearson, with no embedded approach, will be piloted. After piloting both programs, the committee will reconvene to ask for feedback from teachers and DAC and then choose a curriculum to bring forward for adoption. The Board discussed the program we currently teach, any transition issues if we switch to a different program, what this curriculum will look like based on whether it is embedded or pull out, and whether teachers will receive support if an embedded curriculum is used.

Further discussion included the social emotional component of these programs, how schools and teachers are selected for the piloting process, notification to parents on piloting programs and curriculum, and the option for parents and DELAC to review the proposed curriculum.

D. Program development / communication / marketing

The Board discussed why parents are supporting specific programs and not supporting others, receiving feedback from the community that a particular program is of interest, and what programs in place may or may not be working and why.

Board members offered the following comments regarding feedback they have received from the community for interest:

- Dual immersion program
- Programs with a science and technology emphasis

Board members offered the following comments regarding complaints they have received from the community:

- Play time for sports
- Students not thriving
- Inability to customize education plans
- Students receiving late notification of class schedules
- Cost of participation in extra-curricular programs

The Board expressed interest in the following:

- Having students evaluate teachers
- Asking Student DAC how the District can effectively solicit student input.
- Asking the schools to inform parents in their newsletters about programs of interest.
- Reteach model.
- Recognize special talent areas from a Human Resources perspective through timely recruitments and advertising credentials/experience needed.
- Asking Student DAC for feedback on social media and cell phone issue.

E. Transitional Kindergarten

The Board and District staff discussed whether the District should consider accepting students into TK with birth dates of 12/3 and beyond, which is outside of the requirement age. Further discussion included:

- Considering a campaign to advertise open spots to the community for kids slightly outside of the age requirement.
- What date would the District collect ADA for this student population? Answer: On the date that the student is eligible per the age requirement. No ADA will be collected prior to that.
- Potential of losing money if we add and fund teacher salaries for the full year but only receive ADA later in the year, based on age requirement dates.
- How many campuses do not offer TK, and how many programs have not exceeded capacity? Answer: Eleven sites currently have TK programs, with only two sites that have not reached capacity (Aspen and Glenwood).
- What happens to students on the wait list? Answer: Parents are offered spots that are open at other TK sites that have not exceeded capacity.
- Does the District look at the majority of requests to determine where more sites need to open? Answer: Yes.
- What is the parent application timeline? Answer: The application timeline is open and can be submitted all year long.
- Look at the potential of this impacting afterschool care for parents – there are already wait lists for afterschool care. A better option would be to make this a full-day program.
- How many students would be eligible to access TK during the school year? Answer: Approximately 1,000 students, although this is the first year we are tracking this information.

The Board shared the following comments:

- This program should be offered at as many sites as possible to keep students within CVUSD.
- Ensure that the District reaches the EL population with the TK opportunity.

- Look into offering extended day TK programs where possible.

F. Glenwood split into three middle schools

The Board discussed the issue of students from Glenwood Elementary School feeding into three different middle schools. The Board discussed the following options:

- Open School Choice at the middle school level.
- Offer two middle schools rather than three and get feedback from principals on how this affects their populations.
- Look at historical data and check feeder patterns on where students are selecting to go.
- Consider both two and three way splits
- Properly inform parents of the options once decided, and ensure the communication suits their language needs.

District staff will continue discussion on this issue.

G. Direct mental health available on high school sites

The Board discussed the District currently providing services to students with an IEP. Further discussion included:

- Youth Outreach Program through Conejo Recreation and Park District – three personnel who are not formally trained provide outreach by connecting with students who are referred by their teacher or administration. The concern is the cost to the District for unlicensed employees and the quality of their mental health services. Staff will provide the Board with data on the number of students currently served.
- The need for more services for special education students – almost 600 students have a mental health component with their IEP, and the numbers indicate a massive incline.
- Partner with the BreakThrough Program to provide mental health services to general education students without IEPs.
- Focus on group therapy at the middle and high school campuses.
- Reach out to fellow agencies to donate services that they provide to children in the community.
- The possibility of staffing a full-time counselor at all Title I schools.
- Use volunteer interns to supplement the needs for counselors – we currently have five interns.
- Ask for parent feedback on counseling services for students.

H. Location of Waverly Program – Special Education at University

The Board and District staff discussed the Special Education Waverly Program, housed at the University Center. Dr. Miller explained that this program has one teacher, one full-time mental health clinician, and two paraprofessionals in the classroom. She stated that students are placed in this program when they have intense social emotional issues that are triggered at large comprehensive high school campuses. Dr. Miller stated that the Special Education Department hopes to expand this program to include middle school aged students. Another benefit of this program is that it keeps students in our community schools, and lessens the need to place students in residential programs.

Dr. Miller stated that one issue with this program is that it places high school aged students on the same campus as preschool students. Another issue is that access to extra-curricular programs is difficult for these students. Dr. Miller confirmed that the need is to find a new location for this program.

The Board discussed the following options:

- Relocate to Century's campus due to the small campus size.
- Relocate the program to a location that is within walking distance of a high school campus.
- Option for students to walk over to Century for individual elective classes.
- Discussion on how the District address student needs with anxiety at the high school campus – Dr. Miller stated that some paraprofessional attend those classes with the students.

The Board reached a consensus to move forward with Century's campus as a possible location.

I. Board member – Additional goals, initiatives or programs of interest

Board members discussed the following items:

- Post-secondary Program – how are families notified of this option? Dr. McLaughlin confirmed that a presentation on this program is scheduled for a Board meeting in October.
- Air conditioning issues at the schools – Dr. McLaughlin stated that staff is problem solving the issues at hand, some of which may be due to the air conditioning units being shut down for the summer. Dr. Hayek stated that the HVAC technicians are diagnosing the issues, and staff have instituted an improved communication system at the sites to report issues and progress.

4. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjournment

President Connolly adjourned the Open Session at 12:30 p.m. **The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 5:00 p.m. Closed Session, and 6:00 p.m. Open Session** at Conejo Valley High School (CVUSD Board Room), 1402 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

October 15, 2019

Date



Clerk

October 15, 2019

Date



Superintendent