

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

December 8, 2015

MINUTES

DISCUSSION SESSION

The Board held a discussion session regarding Student Freedom of Speech/Expression and Impact on School Culture. Board members John Andersen, Peggy Buckles, Dr. Betsy Connolly, Mike Dunn and Pat Phelps were present. President Connolly opened the Discussion Session at 4:00 p.m., and announced that Public Speaker cards would be collected for speakers to address the Board at the end of the Board's discussion. Materials available to the Board, staff, and the public were Key Questions and Key Definitions (as a guideline for Board discussion), a document aligning Education Code, Board Policy, and Administrative Regulations, Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.2: Freedom of Speech/Expression, Education Code §48907 (regarding freedom of speech for pupils in public schools), Key Questions and Key Definitions. CVUSD legal counsel, Kerrie McNally, was present to help define and answer legal issues related to the topic.

The Board and staff discussed a Newbury Park High School Panther Prowler school newspaper that was released in March 2015, which had a controversial cover and article.

There were seven public speaker cards turned in, with two of the speakers giving their time to others. The public speakers stated their concern that the pictures and content of the article were not appropriate for high school students and that the class advisor and administration should not have permitted the article to be published, especially the cover picture.

Each Board member stated their own specific concerns about the issue. Dr. Bonitatibus stated that she and staff would research laws related to student freedom of speech and child protection, would clarify sexual harassment and how it relates to student publications, and will review Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5145.2 to provide more clarity. Staff will return to a future Board meeting with their findings and suggestions for the Board to consider.

CALL TO ORDER – CLOSED SESSION

At 5:23 p.m. President Betsy Connolly announced that the Board would convene into Closed Session, and asked if there were any public speakers for the Closed Session agenda items; there were none. The Board convened into Closed Session at 5:25 p.m., where the following items were discussed.

- A. Pending Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(b)
- B. Conference with Real Property Negotiators, *Pursuant to Government Code §54956.8*
Property negotiators for CVUSD are Dr. Joel Kirschenstein, Sage Institute, and Dr. Ann N. Bonitatibus, Superintendent

The following property will be discussed regarding price and terms of payment:
2498 Conejo Center Drive, Thousand Oaks

The Closed Session ended at 6:07 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

OPENING PROVISIONS

Call to Order and Roll Call: President Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Present were Board members John Andersen, Peggy Buckles, Dr. Betsy Connolly, Mike Dunn and Pat Phelps. Administration: Dr. Ann Bonitatibus, Superintendent; Robert Iezza, Deputy Superintendent, Instructional Services; Dr. Jon Sand, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services; Mark McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services; Jeanne Valentine, Director, Elementary Education; Dr. Jennifer Boone, Director, Curriculum & Assessment, David Fateh, Director, Facilities & Construction, and Sandy Curwood, Director, Child Nutrition.

Dr. Connolly welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the procedural announcements.

Approval of the Agenda

Mrs. Phelps moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Mrs. Buckles. Motion carried 5-0.

Athletic Competitions

The following Marmonte League Champions were honored:

- Newbury Park High School Girls Cross Country
- Newbury Park High School Girls Singles Golf Champion (Madison Wood)
- Westlake High School Girls Volleyball

School LCAP Presentation

Newbury Park High School Principal, Joshua Eby, along with Bennett Wudkee, Assistant Principal, and Alana Bond, Writing Center Coordinator and English Teacher, presented a report that focused on LCAP Goal 2: Maximize student potential through effective intervention.

Reorganization of the Board of Education

Dr. Connolly handed the gavel to Dr. Bonitatibus to proceed with nominations for President of the Board. (Nominations do not require a second.) Dr. Bonitatibus thanked Dr. Connolly for helping her through her transition as Superintendent. She stated that Dr. Connolly's years of dedication and experience in the District has helped her learn so much about the district, and thanked her for her thoughtful and reflective leadership.

1. Election of President: Dr. Bonitatibus asked for nominations for Board President. Mrs. Buckles nominated Pat Phelps for President of the Board. There were no other nominations. Mrs. Phelps accepted the nomination. The Board voted 5-0. Pat Phelps is the President of the Board of Education, December 2015-December 2016.

Mrs. Phelps took her place as President of the Board, and thanked Dr. Connolly for her excellent year of service as President, especially during a very challenging year. Mr. Andersen, Mrs. Buckles, and Mr. Dunn each thanked Dr. Connolly for her leadership and competence as President of the Board for the last year.

2. Election of Vice President: Mrs. Phelps asked for nominations for Vice President. Dr. Connolly nominated John Andersen for Vice President. Mrs. Phelps stated that since this was Mr. Andersen's "rookie" year on the Board, she would prefer for him to have one more year on the Board before taking the seat as Vice President. Mrs. Phelps nominated Peggy Buckles as President of the Board. Mrs. Phelps asked for a vote on the first nomination for John Andersen. Motion failed with Mr. Andersen and Mr. Dunn voting yes; Mrs. Buckles, Dr. Connolly, and Mrs. Phelps voting nay. Mrs. Phelps asked for a vote on the second nomination for Peggy Buckles. The motion passed with Mrs. Buckles, Dr. Connolly and Mrs. Phelps voting yes, Mr. Andersen abstaining and Mr. Dunn voting nay. Peggy Buckles is the Vice President of the Board.

Mr. Dunn expressed his disappointment in not being voted to a higher office and claimed that board members were discriminating against him.

3. Election of Clerk: Mrs. Phelps asked for nominations for Clerk. Mrs. Buckles nominated John Andersen for Clerk. There were no other nominations. The Board voted 5-0. Mr. Andersen is the Clerk of the Board.
4. Set Date, Time, and Place of Regular Board Meetings: Mrs. Buckles moved to hold to the current schedule for Board meetings: the first and third Tuesday of each month, Closed Session at 5:00 p.m., Open Session at 6:00 p.m., to be held in the Board Meeting Room of the District Offices, seconded by Dr. Connolly. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Appointment of Board Representative to the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization. Mrs. Buckles moved to nominate Pat Phelps to serve as the Board Representative to the Ventura County Committee on School District Organization, seconded by Mrs. Phelps. There were no other nominations. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Assignment to Committees. Mrs. Phelps stated that if any board member would like a change to the current committee assignments, please email her with a request.

Mr. Andersen stated that he would like to be considered for CSBA Delegate Assembly. Staff will prepare the Board report for the meeting of January 5, 2016, in order for the Board to consider nominating Mr. Andersen for a position on the Delegate Assembly.

Comments from the Public

There were four public speaker cards turned in, with one speaker giving their time to another. Each speaker addressed the topic of the Discussion Session, Student Freedom of Speech. Speakers stated that the Board should collaborate more with parents, felt that the article qualified as sexual harassment, and stated that they would like to see district policy changed.

Comments from the Superintendent

Dr. Bonitatibus thanked Newbury Park High School for showing the LCAP goal in action at their writing center. Participation data along with testimonials from students show how students are expanding their writing skills and learning collaborative skills along the way. She congratulated Jeniffer Modola, Westlake High School Spanish Teacher, for her selection as the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Month. Dr. Bonitatibus discussed her attendance at the California School Boards Association Conference in San Diego, which she attended. She attended workshops that focused on English Learners, attendance, LCAP goals, and others. She mentioned that the board will have a future discussion session to share their experiences. At the District Advisory Council (DAC) meeting, the Thousand Oaks High School Chamber Orchestra performed. Since the regular teacher was sick, they students took on different roles to prepare, rehearse, set up and lead the orchestra! Dr. Bonitatibus's favorite learner moment was at Weathersfield Elementary School during a holiday reading in Mrs. Vetrovec's first/second grade class. During the reading, the story mentioned that a snowman was excited to find friends to celebrate with. When asked why the snowman may have been trembling, one student offered: there was an earthquake happening! Dr. Bonitatibus, being an East coast transplant, found that especially amusing and realized the different perspective of easterners and westerners in that regard! She wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and new year!

Comments from Individual Board Members

Mrs. Buckles remarked about her attendance at the annual California School Board Association (CSBA) conference and the excellent workshops she attended. She is excited to share her experience at an upcoming

Discussion Session regarding CSBA. Dr. Connolly conferred with Mrs. Buckles in regard to CSBA. She also discussed her visit to the Thousand Oaks High School

ACTION ITEMS – GENERAL

Instructional Services

- A. Approval of 2016 Summer School/Extended Year Programs
Mrs. Buckles moved to approve the summer school and extended year programs for the summer of 2016, as proposed, seconded by Dr. Connolly. Motion carried 5-0.
- B. Approval of Title 1 School-Level Parent Involvement Policy for Acacia, Conejo, Glenwood and Walnut
Mr. Dunn moved to approve Title 1 School-Level Parent Involvement Policy for Acacia, Conejo, Glenwood and Walnut, as submitted, seconded by Mrs. Buckles. Motion carried 5-0.
- C. Approval of Amendments to Board Policy 5131.2 - Bullying
Mr. Andersen moved to approve amendments to Board Policy 5131.2: Bullying, as submitted, seconded by Dr. Connolly. Motion carried 5-0.

Business Services

- D. 2015-2016 First Interim Financial Statements
Dr. Connolly moved to accept the 2015-2016 First Interim Financial Statements, as submitted, seconded by Mr. Andersen. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT

Dr. Connolly moved to approve the consent agenda as written, seconded by Mr. Andersen. Motion carried 5-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes (in Section B of the full Agenda)
 - 1. Regular Meeting of December 1, 2015
- B. Personnel Assignment Orders:
 - 1. Classified Employees: C-9526 to C-9529
Child Nutrition Assistant I, Child Nutrition Assistant-Satellite, Custodian, Paraprofessional/Special Ed
 - 2. Exempt Employees: E-15124 to E-15154
Campus Supervisors, Coach, Specialist, Student Helper
- C. Contract for Nonpublic School Placement for Handicapped Student #20-15/16
- D. Parent Support/Booster Organization Reauthorization
 - 1. Conejo Elementary Open Program Endeavor
 - 2. Westlake Elementary PTA
 - 3. Los Cerritos Band
 - 4. Newbury Park High School Aquatics – Boys
 - 5. Newbury Park High School Aquatics – Girls
 - 6. Newbury Park High School Panther Band

- 7. Newbury Park High School Girls Basketball
- 8. Newbury Park High School Choral
- 9. Newbury Park High School Boys Lacrosse
- 10. Newbury Park High School Girls Lacrosse
- 11. Newbury Park High School Softball
- 12. Newbury Park High School Swim
- 13. Newbury Park High School Tennis
- 14. Newbury Park High School Track & Field
- 15. Newbury Park High School Girls Volleyball
- 16. Newbury Park High School Wrestling
- 17. Thousand Oaks High School Spirit Cheer
- 18. Thousand Oaks High School Girls Lacrosse
- 19. Thousand Oaks High School Swim
- 20. Thousand Oaks High School Track & Field
- 21. Thousand Oaks High School Boys Water Polo
- 22. Thousand Oaks High School Wrestling
- 23. Westlake High School Baseball
- 24. Westlake High School Girls Basketball
- 25. Westlake High School Cross Country & Track
- 26. Westlake High School Girls Lacrosse
- 27. Westlake High School Scholarship Foundation
- 28. Westlake High School Boys Volleyball

E. Purchase Order Report #891

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no Information Items.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Connolly adjourned the Open Session at 8:40 p.m. The Board will reconvene on **Tuesday, January 5, 2016, 5:00 p.m. Closed Session, and 6:00 p.m. Open Session** at the CVUSD South Building Board Room, 1400 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

January 5, 2015

Date

Clerk

January 5, 2015

Date

Superintendent