

**CULVER CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
UNADOPTED MINUTES**

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| Meeting: | <u>Regular Meeting</u> | Date: | <u>February 26, 2013</u> |
| Place: | <u>District Administration Office</u> | Time: | <u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u> |
| | <u>4034 Irving Place</u> | | <u>6:01 p.m. – Closed Session</u> |
| | <u>Culver City 90232</u> | | <u>7:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u> |

Board Members Present

Katherine Paspalis, Esq., President
Patricia Siever, Professor, Vice President
Nancy Goldberg, Clerk
Laura Chardiet, Member
Karlo Silbiger, Member

Staff Members Present

David LaRose, Superintendent
Eileen Carroll
Leslie Lockhart
Mike Reynolds

Call to Order

Board President Ms. Paspalis called the meeting of the Culver City Unified School District Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:01 p.m. and reconvened the public meeting at 7: p.m. with all Board members in attendance. Jo-Anne Cooper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report from Closed Session

Ms. Silbiger reported that the Governing Board met in Closed Session regarding issues listed on today's Closed Session agenda and announced the following reportable actions were taken. In Closed Session the Board took action to release fifteen (15) temporary and one (1) long-term substitute certificated employee effective as of the end of the 2012/2013 school year. The roll call vote was 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays. In Closed Session the Board voted to release eleven (11) temporary Adult School teachers effective as of the end of the 2012/2013 school year. The roll call vote was 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

8. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Paspalis suggested moving item 9.6 after 10.2 so the students could leave early. It was moved Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Patricia to adopt the February 26, 2013 agenda as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Consent Agenda

Ms. Paspalis called the Consent Agenda and asked if any member of the audience or the Board wished to withdraw any item. Mr. Silbiger requested that item 9.6 and 9.7 be withdrawn. Ms. Siever requested that item 9.2 be withdrawn. It was moved by Ms. Goldberg and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1, 9.3 – 9.5, and 9.8 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 9.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 12, 2013
- 9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations
- 9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 11
- 9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 11
- 9.8 Acceptance of Enrollment Report

9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders and Warrants

Ms. Siever inquired about item 60307 on page 2. She knows that it is for Special Education. Director of Special Education, Jo-Anne Cooper, explained that the amount is the result of a settlement agreement to provide intensive reading therapy for a student.

9.7 Approval is Recommended for CCHS Field Trip to Spain, June 18-28, 2014

Mr. Silbiger asked if staff could provide background on the trip. Melanie DeArmond, teacher at the High School, informed that Board that the trip would be eleven days covering various parts of Spain. They will be departing and returning out of LAX airport, and she described what the fees would cover. The dates are actually changed to

March 24, 2014 to April 3, 2014 and there will be no school days missed. During the trip students will learn about architecture, take bike tours, visit museums, and learn native dances among other activities. Ms. Goldberg stated her concerns about visiting the country and if there would be any backlash from Spaniards towards our students visiting during any possible economic changes or crisis. Ms. DArmond stated that she lived in Spain for quite awhile and she did not anticipate any issues arising during the trip and that Spaniards are wonderful people.

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever that items 9.2 and 9.7 be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations

10.1 American Citizenship Awards

Mr. LaRose and the Assistant Superintendents read the names and accomplishments of each school's recipients of the American Citizenship Award for the month of February. The recipients were Christine Shimahara from El Marino School; Bethseda Lemma from El Rincon Elementary; Kaira Hernandez from La Ballona School; June Metzler from Linwood E. Howe School; Thomas Peacock from Farragut School; Isabel Musselman from Culver City Middle School; Alixavier Cherry from Culver Park High School; and Martin Beer from Culver City High School. Board members presented each recipient with a pin and certificate; and thanked the students and their families for attending the meeting.

10.2 Spotlight on Education - El Rincon Elementary

Reginald Brunson, Principal at El Rincon, presented the Board with the school's rising API and AYP scores. He explained to the Board what aspects staff was looking at in order to raise the scores. He also spoke about enrollment, demographics, and the diversity at the school. Mr. Brunson mentioned the data that is being reviewed from the assessments of the students. He discussed their Signature Practices such as Principal supervision, morning reading, daily morning assembly, grade-level writing rubrics, Caring School Communities, Galileo, Success Maker, and others. Four students briefly spoke about what they enjoyed in the STEM Program. Tiana Nicholson enjoys learning about plant cells and recycling, Unique Nicholson enjoys learning about rocks and minerals, Tyson Brazil enjoys the UCLA Physics Program. Mr. Brunson then spoke about the Trash 4 Teaching field trip for the teachers. A teacher, Janet Ames, who serves on the Leadership Team spoke about the STEM action plan and their Smart Goals. She also spoke about Inquiry Based Learning and the school's aiming for trash-free lunches. Ms. Siever congratulated Mr. Brunson on what he, the staff, and the entire school community has been able to accomplish after everything the school has gone through over the last few years. She said it is very impressive. Ms. Siever was curious as to how Inquiry-based Learning is different from regular methodology. Ms. Ames explained that with Inquiry-based learning the child develops his own questions and comes up with their own answer. The teacher guides them through this process. The staff knows that there is still much to learn so they are inquiring at UCLA about further professional development on this topic. Ms. Goldberg stated that she has gone to the PTA meetings at El Rincon and commended Julie Fitz. She stated it has been a pleasure to watch the collaboration of staff come together and grow under Mr. Brunson's leadership. Ms. Chardiet stated that the change in the school culture is palpable. It is nice to see all of the teachers and parents at the meeting to support Mr. Brunson. She congratulated Mr. Brunson. Ms. Paspalis asked how the students use the Success Maker Program. Mr. Brunson briefly responded. Ms. Paspalis stated that the technology piece of STEM is not just about using the technology, but learning about the technology itself. Mr. Brunson would like to teach students to Podcast. He stated it is a great way to see the lab being utilized and he would like to be able to Podcast other sites.

Jon Marcano, President of the El Rincon Booster Club, stated that the Booster Club has applied to be a school connected organization. He listed some of the activities that have already been sponsored by the Boosters which included a Bake Sale, Game Show Night, a Giving Thanks to El Rincon event which was a beautification project; and Holiday Grams. He also informed the Board about future events.

9. Consent Items – (cont.)**9.6 Approval is Recommended for the Special Education Department’s Significant Disproportionality Study and Action Plan for the California Department of Education**

Jo-Anne Cooper, Director of Special Education, explained the meaning of Significant Disproportionality. She stated that District was one in forty-five districts in California that was identified as being significantly disproportionate. CCUSD has been found disproportionate in the category of Caucasian mentally unstable students. She explained to the Board what measures the District needs to take moving forward and what focus areas would be addressed. She presented the Board with the action plan for interventions. Further discussion ensued. It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve the Special Education Department’s Significant Disproportionality Study and Action Plan for the California Department of Education as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

11. Public Recognition**11.1 Superintendent’s Report**

Mr. LaRose recognized the common themes in the rise of test scores at all of the schools. He wanted to commend those that support those efforts from staff at the school sites to the Administrative Assistants, Eileen Carroll, Leslie Lockhart, and Mike Reynolds. He stated that the District is fortunate to have a caring and talented team. Mr. LaRose acknowledged how generous the community is and spoke about how the community is helping at the sites, and thanked the Elks Club for a \$500 check given to La Ballona Elementary. He stated he felt honored to be in attendance at their last meeting. He also met The Lions Club representatives and commented on the great work they do in the District. Mr. LaRose also wanted to highlight the great work of the Anti-Bullying Task Force. He spoke about the work that they are doing in the District and how much has been accomplished. He commended Ms. Carroll for her all of her hard work with the committee, and thanked his Administrative Assistant Rebecca Williams.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents’ Reports

Ms. Carroll reported on the Title III Corrective Action Plan. She stated that the District is year four of being in Title III corrective action and she stated that the Action Plan was recently approved by LACOE. It now goes to the California Department of Education for approval. Ms. Carroll reported that STAR Writing Testing is set to begin for all fourth and seventh graders on March 5th. There is a DCAT meeting next week and anyone interested in the arts is invited.

Mrs. Lockhart reported that the Human Resources department is enthusiastic about assisting staff with their health and wellness. A District Wellness Committee has been put together and it is comprised of staff and parents. She will bring further reports to the Board along with updating the District Wellness Policy.

Mr. Reynolds stated that contracts with Balfour Beatty have been reviewed by District attorneys and they are ready to sign. He provided information on redevelopment funding and he gave the Board a timeline as to when they can expect to receive the budget for approval. Mr. Silbiger asked if the budget is taking into consideration the savings on the solar project. Mr. Reynolds stated yes.

11.3 Student Representatives’ Reports**Middle School Student Representative**

The Culver City Middle School Student Representative was not present.

Culver Park Student Representative

Eric Ibarra, Culver Park High School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including the new session of Student Council started this week; and students involved in the Poetry Workshop have each done poems and they will be published by Red Handed Publishers. He also reported that students to the HeArt Project will be working with a visual artist and learn how to use Photoshop

Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member

Kalena Kettering, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including the beginning of the second semester; students from CPY Program returned from their trip to Sacramento; students getting college acceptance letters; out of the 5000 accepted to UCE 200 students are accepted into their honor program. Out of that 200 four of them were from the High School. She spoke about the loss of Coach Dave Sanchez. She stated that ASB put together a memorial for Mr. Sanchez which turned out really nice, and some of his family members were in attendance. She announced that there will be an Anti-Bullying event and the creators of the movie "Bully" will come to the high school and possibly some celebrities. ASB applications are also due this Friday.

11.4 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Martin Beer, Student Body President, commented that he would like the Board to consider the idea of expanding the role of the Student Board Member. He thinks that the role should entail more than just reporting on issues or what is happening at the school. He thinks that they should be bringing real issues to the Board and be considered a counting vote.
- David Mielke agrees that the role of the Student Board Member needs to be expanded. He is hoping that the meeting will be adjourned in memory of Coach Dave Sanchez. He provided an update on bargaining and stated today's Partnership Meeting. Mr. Mielke said that the Superintendent's staff has acknowledged that the salary schedule is low, and he hopes that there will be action to address that issue. Ms. Chardiet asked if staff knew what percentage the District is below the median. Mr. Reynolds stated it is somewhere around ten percent. Mr. Reynolds stated that we need to figure out the schedules and be very aggressive because as the District moves up, other Districts may be moving theirs up also.

11.5 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Ms. Chardiet wanted to speak about grants. She was thinking about the Green 5 Program and how that program came from our Environmental Sustainability Committee who had worked for three years towards the program getting grants. She would like to open the idea up of having a grant meeting at the District Office. Another example she provided was how the OLWEUS Program was implemented through the hard work of the Anti-Bullying Task Force securing a grant. Ms. Chardiet was thinking that rather than have people meet at the school site and learn about grant writing, maybe there should be an official grant committee that meets at the District Office.
- Ms. Siever congratulated the District's Spelling Bee winner from El Marino and the 2nd place winner from Farragut Elementary. She attended the inauguration of CCDC and congratulated Bill Wynn. Ms. Siever wanted to have additional information on the District's Security Department. She stated that the Board spoke a few years ago about additional training for the officers, and she would like to have an update on how things are going in the department since the last discussion. Mr. LaRose stated that we are investing in training that is essential and not optional. He stated that he has spoken to Mrs. Hamme in an effort to work collaboratively. Ms. Siever also spoke to her husband, Dr. Luther Henderson, he is a member of the Exchange Club and she has compassion for what the Club is doing and she thanked him for what the Club is doing. She thanked the Superintendent for a good agenda and keeping the meetings focused and brief.
- Mr. Silbiger took his time to read a statement that he prepared about the experiences he has had in the District from his attendance at El Rincon through the Middle School. He prepared the statement so that he could talk about his encounter with Coach Dave Sanchez and how being in his classes changed the trajectory of his life. He asked to adjourn the meeting in Mr. Sanchez's memory.
- Ms. Goldberg shared her memories of Dave Sanchez and how they got their CLAD certification together. She stated that he was amazing and the District was lucky to have him. Ms. Goldberg spoke about the Culver Park Youth Movement and stated it was a wonderful program and gets students involved. She is also a big proponent of the Green 5 program. She announced that the Walkers N Rollers will be walking Wednesday the 6th and warned everyone to stay off of Sawtelle

between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and it will be crowded. She is also doing her first WASC Accreditation.

- Ms. Paspalis reported on her attendance at the workshop discussing capital projects. She announced that the High School Booster Club's Annual Casino Night is coming and encouraged everyone to attend. In addressing the grant issue brought up by Ms. Chardiet, Ms. Paspalis felt that it might be better to be a Superintendent committee rather than a Board committee. Ms. Paspalis commented on an article in the L.A. Times that was about African-American students struggling in school and the low graduation rate. The article then commented on how well Culver City High School is doing at closing the achievement gap for African-American students. She then announced that the Girls' Basketball team won at the buzzer and is on their way to the CIF final for the first time on Friday at 3:00 p.m. She congratulated the team.

12. Information Items

12.1 Redevelopment Revenues

Mr. Blake Boehm, Associate Director at Donlinka Group LLC, an organization that works exclusively with local education agencies, presented information on redevelopment revenues. After his presentation Gary Silbiger stated it has been great to be present at the meeting and he knows the public appreciates being able to view all of the great things the Board is doing. He hopes that the District will be able to have all of the meetings in the Chambers. Gary Silbiger then provided the Board with resources to help them follow-up on having a possible oversight committee. Ms. Siever clarified that the District appointed Sean Kearney to serve on the City's Finance Committee. Mr. Silbiger wanted to clarify that this information was being brought to the Board because the City said that they cannot pay the District the same amount that they have paid in the past. Mr. Reynolds confirmed.

13. Recess

The Board mutually agreed to bypass recess.

14. Action Items

14.1 Superintendent's Items - None

14.2 Education Services Items

14.2a Approval is Recommended for the Reinstatement of Pupil Services Case #22-09-10

It was moved by Ms. Goldberg and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the reinstatement of Pupil Services Case #22-09-10 presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.3 Business Services Items - None

14.4 Personnel Items - None

15. Board Business

15.1 CSBA Nominations for the 2013 Delegate Assembly

Board members discussed the nominations and stated that the nomination form can be returned with all members nominated since there are six seats and six nominees. The nomination form will be brought back for action.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Silbiger, seconded by Ms. Goldberg and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Ms. Paspalis adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m. in memory of Dave Sanchez.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary