

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

Meeting:	<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>February 8, 2011</u>
Place:	<u>District Administration Office</u>	Time:	<u>5:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u>
	<u>4034 Irving Place</u>		<u>5:01 p.m. – Closed Session</u>
	<u>Culver City 90232</u>		<u>7:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u>

Board Members Present
Scott Zeidman, Esq., President
Karlo Silbiger, Vice President
Katherine Paspalis, Esq., Clerk
Patricia Siever, Professor, Member
Steven Gourley, Member

Staff Members Present
Patricia W. Jaffe, Interim Superintendent
Ali Delawalla
Gwenis Laura, Ed.S.

Call to Order

Board President Mr. Zeidman called the meeting of the Culver City Unified School District Board of Education to order at 5:00 p.m. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. and reconvened the public meeting at 7:05 p.m. with all Board members in attendance. Ms. Jamie Wallace led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report from Closed Session

Mr. Zeidman reported that the Governing Board met in Closed Session regarding issues listed on today's Closed Session agenda and announced that the following reportable actions were taken regarding item 3.8. The Board voted to non-reelect (1) one probationary elementary teacher from employment, effective as of the end of the 2010-2011 school year with a vote of 5 – Ayes and 0 - Nays. The Board voted to non-reelect (1) one probationary secondary teacher from employment, effective as of the end of the 2010-2011 school year with a vote of 3 – Ayes and 2 – Nays. The Board voted to release thirteen (13) temporary certificated employees and (0) long term certificated substituted employees from employment, effective as of the end of the 2010-2011 school year with a vote of 5 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

8. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Zeidman suggested amending the agenda by moving item 10.1 to the top of the agenda followed by item 14.4a. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever to adopt the agenda as amended. The motion was unanimously approved. Another amendment that was inadvertently omitted was to pull item 14.2b which was brought to the Board's attention by Mrs. Jaffe. The Board agreed. Mr. Gourley moved to further amend the agenda by removing item 14.2b. The motion was seconded by Ms. Siever. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations

10.1 American Citizenship Awards

Mrs. Jaffe 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 Arthur Baxter Hamilton from El Marino School; Danielle Kim from El Rincon Elementary; Lorena Alvarado from La Ballona School; Kathryn Bancroft from Linwood E. Howe School; Danielle Valle Dubon from Farragut School; Liam Naughton from Culver City Middle School; Kevin McKinney from Culver Park High School; and Adam Friedmann 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.

14. Action Items

14.4a Approval of Resolution #14-2010/2011, Amendment of Employment Agreement of the Interim Superintendent of Culver City Unified School District

Mr. Zeidman announced that due to the number of Speaker Cards, audience members making comments would be allotted ninety seconds. The following audience members commented:

- Paula Wilson spoke in support of hiring Patricia Jaffe for Superintendent. She spoke about how Mrs. Jaffe had worked with her when she was on the PTA at Culver City Middle School.
- Alan Elmont stated that he was in support of a modified contract. He felt that at this point in the Superintendent search to not allow Mrs. Jaffe to apply would leave stakeholders in the community wondering if the best candidate was chosen.
- Doyle Hanks stated that he represented the people that do not understand why it is not just a given that Mrs. Jaffe be appointed the next Superintendent. He felt that Mrs. Jaffe is a visionary leader, and has great respect for staff, students, and the community.
- Scott Malsin commended the Board, staff, and Mrs. Jaffe and stated that they were doing a great job. He stated that to deny a modification to the contract would be a procedural roadblock, and that her contract should be modified to allow her to be taken into consideration for the Superintendent position.
- Kelly Nolan recalled her great experience in being hired in the District which was led by Mrs. Jaffe. She spoke about how Mrs. Jaffe was very personable and hands-on in the hiring process. She said Mrs. Jaffe was an inspiration.
- George Laase stated that he was all for Mrs. Jaffe to become Superintendent, but not in the current way that it was being handled. He did not feel it was right to change the rules in the hiring process “so late in the game.”
- Robert Gray spoke in favor of modifying Mrs. Jaffe’s contract and hiring her. He stated that a big part of having such great teachers in the District has been attributed to Mrs. Jaffe.
- Mark Azad stated that Mrs. Jaffe is a charm and he does not see why she was not just hired as Superintendent.
- David Mielke commended the Board for taking on the possibility of modifying Mrs. Jaffe contract. He stated that if she is the right person, then hire her. He stated that he personally, and not as President of CCFT, endorses her. From the union perspective, he stated they had many problems with Human Resources over the years until Mrs. Jaffe came on board.
- Bonnie Wacker felt that not allowing Mrs. Jaffe to apply for the position would be a travesty. She spoke in favor of hiring Mrs. Jaffe as Superintendent.
- Kathy Varlotta, a veteran teacher, commented about how much Mrs. Jaffe has shown that she cares about the District. She also spoke about how Mrs. Jaffe always has a presence in the District, and always visits the schools.
- Amy Anderson spoke in support of modifying the contract and hiring Mrs. Jaffe. She stated that Mrs. Jaffe knows the District’s students, parents, and teachers. She also spoke about the ease and speed things have been handled by Mrs. Jaffe.
- Cathy Green-Bratton read a letter in support of hiring Mrs. Jaffe and stated that she thinks the sentiments in the letter resonate the sentiments of most of the teachers at the middle school.
- Nancy Burne spoke in favor of modifying Mrs. Jaffe’s contract and stated that she had been great to work with in the production of the District’s publication of Culver Currents in Print. She stated that Mrs. Jaffe has great skill in bringing the staff and students together.
- Jamie Wallace stated that she was in support of modifying Mrs. Jaffe’s contract.
- Elizabeth Mejia stated that Mrs. Jaffe saved her life. She spoke about the moment that she informed Mrs. Jaffe that she found out she had cancer. Mrs. Jaffe told her to take a year off. This time off helped her to heal and she is truly thankful to Mrs. Jaffe.
- Carmen Campos stated that Mrs. Jaffe has helped her in many ways, and shared her support of modifying Mrs. Jaffe’s contract.
- Jon Pearson, Principal at Culver City Middle School, spoke about the wonderful foundation that Mrs. Jaffe laid at the middle school is exceptional, and how much he appreciates her mentorship. He is in support of modifying her contract to allow her to be considered for the Superintendent position.
- Ms. Siever read a letter from Debbie Hamme where she comments about the timing to change Mrs. Jaffe’s contract not being adequate, and the unfairness to the candidates that have been waiting for several weeks for the Board to make a decision. She stated that the process had become a “three ring circus” and noted that the contract that Mrs. Jaffe signed was not unlike the contract signed by Mrs.

Fiello when she was hired as Interim Superintendent following Dr. McGaughey. Therefore, there was nothing prejudicial or unfair about the contract that Mrs. Jaffe signed. Mr. Gourley moved to make Mrs. Hamme's letter part of the Minutes. Mr. Silbiger seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Silbiger thanked everyone for coming and sharing their comments. He gave a brief summary on how the Board decided on the hiring process and how the search has gone to this point. He stated that he believes that Mrs. Jaffe has done a great job, and went on to explain why he did not think that her contract should be modified. He wanted to make a motion when it was appropriate to move the item to Closed Session. Mr. Zeidman asked Mr. Silbiger what exactly he would like to move to Closed Session. Mr. Silbiger wanted to move the discussion and vote to Closed Session. Ms. Siever stated that the Board was already informed that they could not do that. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Gourley moved for the discussion and vote to be moved to Closed Session. Ms. Paspalis seconded the motion. The motion was denied with a vote of 1 – Aye and 4 – Nays by Mr. Zeidman, Mr. Gourley, Ms. Paspalis, and Ms. Siever. Ms. Siever stated her view on the modification. She felt that during the last meeting there was no prior Board discussion on the possibility of changing Mrs. Jaffe's contract, therefore, she was rather shocked when the topic was brought up by a Board member. There was a process in place and then it was changed without discussion or knowledge. Ms. Siever stated that for this item she would be voting no. Not because she does not like Mrs. Jaffe, in fact, she likes her very much. Ms. Siever felt that it had to do with honesty and integrity, and that you have to honor how the process takes place and not just take the "means to an end" approach. Jamie MacIntosh, Student Board Member, stated that she spoke to the ASB students about the issue of Mrs. Jaffe's contract and it was clear that the students and staff love her. She stated that regardless of money lost doing the Superintendent search, the issue should be about what is best for the students and the District. Mr. Gourley felt that in voting for this change in the contract, it would be voting for on whether qualified candidates should be in the running. In regards to the timing of the change in contract, he knows of one Board member that raised this question at the beginning of the search, the middle, and approximately one month ago. Mr. Gourley apologizes to any candidates that may feel discouraged by the process and stated he was just leveling the playing field. Mr. Zeidman read a statement where he commented on loyalty and duty to the residents, employees, and registered voters in the community. He did not feel that job-seekers should be put ahead of those that the Board had a duty to. He felt that Mrs. Jaffe has done a fabulous job as Interim Superintendent and that she should have the opportunity to be considered for the position.

It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve Resolution #14-2010/2011, Amendment of Employment Agreement of the Interim Superintendent of Culver City Unified School District as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes; 1 – Nay by Mr. Silbiger; and 1 – Abstention by Ms. Siever.

9. Consent Agenda

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

- 9.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting – January 25, 2011
- 9.3 Single Plan for Student Achievement – La Ballona Elementary School
- 9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 13
- 9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 13
- 9.6 Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly Overnight Field Trip for CCHS Students, Catalina Island, California, April 15-18, 2011

9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders

Mr. Mielke withdrew this item to comment on Purchase Order #56229 on page one through page two. He stated that all of the items appear to be for enrichment services provided to the middle school from outside vendors. Ms. Laura responded that due to the middle school being in program improvement the District is required to provide certain services and it is all funded through Title I funds. Mr. Mielke also inquired about item #56256.

Mr. Delawalla responded that it was for speech and language specialists for special education. Mr. Mielke stated that he thinks the District has had issues with problems finding vendors for speech and language services and suggested to the Board using current employees for this service and agendaize this matter. Mrs. Jaffe explained that there had been job postings over the past three years for speech and language, and she provided information on what happened with those that applied. Ms. Paspalis inquired about item #56261 for advertising. Mr. Delawalla explained that it was for Culver City News and he would have to look into it, but that it was funded from the donation account. It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve purchase orders from January 15, 2011 through January 28, 2011 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations – (cont.)

10.2 Spotlight on Education - La Ballona Elementary School

Ms. Laura introduced Ms. Christine Collins, Principal at La Ballona Elementary School. Ms. Collins informed the Board about the instructional practices being implemented at the school that are showing significant positive results. Ms. Collins also spoke about academic intervention with the Success Maker Club. Board members thanked Ms. Collins and commended her and the staff for all of their hard work and achievements at the school.

11. Public Recognition

11.1 Superintendent’s Report

Mrs. Jaffe reported that El Rincon Elementary is also looking at purchasing the Success Maker Program. She said that safety has been a big concern with all of the recent media headlines and she provided the Board with an update on her meeting with Ted Yant, Security Supervisor for the District, and the Culver City Police Department. She said they reviewed lockdown procedures, made sure the police department had all relevant phone numbers, copied the police on all site layout plans, and reviewed supplies in the classrooms. She reported that all schools have Comfort Kits, and at her Coffee Chat meeting with Booster and PTA meetings she asked them to look into having water available in all of the classrooms. Mrs. Jaffe provided an updated on the two students that were hit by cars and commended CCPD and the administration on how they handled those situations. She said they were all unbelievable. Mrs. Jaffe reminded the Board that a lot of students do not always look before walking out into the street, or use crosswalks. She noted that at a certain time of the day the sun is blinding to drivers. Mrs. Jaffe gave additional information that was discussed at her Coffee and Chat meeting.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents’ Reports

Ms. Laura reported on the Caring Schools Community curriculum and that all five elementary schools were participating. She also reported on professional development that is being provided to teachers and principals regarding assessment. The California Standards Test is taking place on March 4th and other tests will be coming. Math intervention kits have been ordered and she provided an updated on the next Anti-Bullying Task Force meeting.

Mr. Delawalla reported that the State Allocation Board approved the District’s eligibility which will enable the District to start a new project. He also stated that the City Redevelopment Agency were about a year behind on their payments to the District. He stated that the Business is in receipt of the payment for the rest of the 2009-2010 year, and they received partial payment for 2010-2011. The City stated that the balance for 2010-2011 should be sent in May.

11.3 Student Representatives’ Reports

Middle School Student Representative

Sophia Greenberg , Culver City Middle School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver City Middle School, including the Valentine’s Day Dance; the Pennies for Patients fundraiser; and Valentine O’Grams being sold.

Culver Park Student Representative

Sandra Maldonado, Culver Park High School Student Representative, apologized to the Board for not attending the previous meeting. Miss Maldonado reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including the students participating in Valentine’s for Vets; the school’s new sweatshirts being delivered and for sale at the school; the

new electronics policy which will be identical to the policy at the high school; Valentine O'Grams being sold; and her investigation into whether the seniors at Culver Park can participate in Grad Night with the high school.

Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member

Jamie MacIntosh, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including the ASB mixer in Mira Costa; an update on the Pennies for Patients fundraiser which will also include a barbeque to help raise money; the fundraiser taking place at Islands Restaurant; the boy's last basketball game coming up; the upcoming Culver City Scholarships event; Valentine O'Grams being sold at the school; and the arts being recognized at the school. Miss MacIntosh also stated her concerns about students that are bullying other students not facing any consequences.

11.4 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Gianna Gray urged the Board to approve the installation of solar panels before the budget cuts. She also inquired as to how the anticipated costs for the Athletic Complex raise from 2 million to 6 million dollars. She was also against using half of the available money.
- Michele Van Gelderen urged the Board to make the Immersion Program a priority.
- David Mielke provided the Board with a bargaining update. He said the last bargaining meeting was a good and positive session, but they were disappointed that that the District had not provided an analysis for early retirement. The teachers agreed to five furlough days with the contingency that they would receive this analysis, and to date it has not been received.
- Jerry Chabola announced that the Booster Club's Casino Night was taking place on February 26th and tickets were still available, and the CCHS/Rotary Invitational will be on March 12th. Mr. Chabola provided an update on the girl's soccer team and girl's waterpolo who were both winners. He stated that the following week would commence the winter sports playoffs. He also thanked the Board for acknowledging Adam Friedmann during the American Citizenship Awards.

11.5 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Silbiger reported on his attendance at an Empowerment Conference hosted by Mark Ridley Thomas. He extended congratulations to the AVPA on their performance of The Laramie Project. He stated that two weeks ago the Board decided to start working on the budgets, but that there have been some scheduling issues and he hopes that the subcommittee can get together with staff soon to start the discussions. Mr. Silbiger stated that he appreciated Mrs. Jaffe giving an update on the students that were recently hit by cars, and he requested an update on the Food Services Director coming back to a meeting with her presentation. Mrs. Jaffe stated that the presentation would probably be at the end of March or beginning of April.
- Ms. Paspalis reported on her attendance at the union negotiations for the District. She announced that Simon Johnson had won the District Spelling Bee for the second year in a row. The second session of the Immersion Strategic Planning Committee had taken place and they made lots of progress. Ms. Paspalis provided Mrs. Jaffe with a CSBA Sample of a Resolution to support getting measures on the ballot. All Board members agreed to have the Resolution on the next meeting's agenda as an Action Items.
- Mr. Zeidman read an announcement from Dr. Jessica Beagles-Roos that the Culver City Youth Health Center was having a Book Faire on Feb. 12th at 2:00 p.m. He stated that he met with Christopher Wang, one of the students that had been hit by a car. He met with him at his home and reported that he was doing well.

13. Recess

The Board recessed at 8:50 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

12. Information Items**12.1 Bell Schedule Survey Results**

Ms. Laura presented the results of the bell schedule to Board members which showed most parents, staff, and students were pleased with the current bell schedule. David Mielke inquired as to how many students responded, and he felt that the Board should really be guided by research studies done on students learning better with a later start time. Alan Elmont stated he found the survey meaningless as a parent and stated it did not have much information. Casey Chabola provided suggestions for a bell schedule. Robert Gray stated he would like to hear more about current research on the issue. Mr. Zeidman inquired if it would be a negotiated item. He thinks the Board would need to find out if it is a negotiated item before making any decisions. Ms. Paspalis felt that what Casey Chabola suggested was great and agreed that the wording in the survey was weak. She also was not happy with the input that was received. She would like to see any changes to a bell schedule in place by September. Mr. Gourley stated he did not understand why an additional survey would be needed, if the Board was going to possibly impose a new schedule anyway. He would be more inclined to hear more about the research than survey results. Mr. Silbiger asked if staff knew how many parents had more than one child in different schools. He also liked Casey Chabola's suggestion. Mr. Silbiger supports putting any changes in place by September. Mr. Zeidman stated that the student survey is not going to sway him much. He would like to see the proposed schedules brought back in two weeks.

12.2 First Reading of New Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5118, Students – Open Enrollment Act Transfers

Mr. Drew Sotelo presented information to the Board on the new Board Policy and Administrative Regulation. He responded to questions from audience members and Board members regarding permits and how students, how the students would be prioritized, and room capacity. Ms. Paspalis stated that she had a few revisions as did Ms. Siever. Mr. Gourley suggested reviewing the policy and adding language that would provide an explanation on why the District has a cap on permits and student count at the schools stating the schools were too crowded. Mrs. Jaffe commented that the average class size is in the CCFT contract. The Board Policy and Administrative Regulation will be brought back for a second reading.

12.3 First Reading of Revised Board Bylaw 9320, Meetings and Notices

Mrs. Jaffe presented the information to the Board. Discussion ensued about clarification on when the City was going to speak with their Commission on possibly changing dates. No revisions were made to the Bylaw and it will be brought back for a second reading.

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 #06-09**

It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve the reinstatement of Pupil Services Case #06-0 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.2b Second Reading and Adoption of Administrative Regulation 6164.6, Instruction – Identification and Education under Section 504

This item was pulled from the agenda.

14.3 Business Items – None**14.4 Personnel Items**

14.4b Approval is Recommended for Resolution #15-2010/2011 (HR), Regarding Determination of Seniority Among Certificated Employees with the Same Seniority Date (“Tie-Breaker Resolution”)

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board approve Resolution #15-2010/2011 (HR), Regarding Determination of Seniority Among Certificated Employees with the Same Seniority Date (“Tie-Breaker Resolution”) as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

15. Board Business

15. Discussion on Capital Projects

Mr. Delawalla informed the Board of funds the District has for capital improvement projects and stated that the District will get an additional \$4 million dollars in funding if the money is spent on an athletic complex and the elevators that are needed at the high school. Robert Gray stated that in everything he has researched it states that the District could use the capital improvement money on solar energy. He thinks that the District should use some of the funds for solar. Bonnie Wacker stated her support for implementing solar panels at the middle school, high school, and Farragut Elementary. Bonnie Seeberger stated that solar panels not only help the environment, but they could also promote an educational component. Alan Elmont stated that it was nice to see a discussion on using the capital improvement funds, but that there has been nine to ten years of discussion and there is yet to be a Board to make a decision on using the funds. Mr. Elmont stated not to leave the decision making all to a committee, and urged the Board not to sit on the money. He believes all of the choices thus far have great advantages. Jerry Chabola stated that there were several occasions that he sat in on CBAC meetings and the recommendations were not moved on by the Board. Mr. Chabola stated that he has heard a lot in the community regarding the athletic complex and he pointed out that having the complex was not about him. Having the complex was about the students and the community. He stated that whatever capital funds were available needed to be spent. George Laase asked if the energy saved would be used on-site. Mr. Delawalla responded yes. Mr. Laase agreed with Mr. Elmont that the Board needs to do something with the funds. Todd Johnson and Kathleen McKernin provided the Board with additional information and responded to questions. Mr. Silbiger and Mr. Gourley agreed that they would like the committee to proceed with the RFP. Mr. Zeidman stated that the elevators had to be done at the high school. He stated that he was not against the project, but he would feel more comfortable getting more information from other Districts that have taken on a solar project such as Santa Monica/Malibu Unified. Mr. Zeidman stated that Robert Frost Auditorium and an athletic Field will bring in revenue and the students and community would be able to use them. He suggested moving forward with the Robert Frost Auditorium, the elevators and the athletic field. Additional information ensued. It was agreed that Mr. Johnson would send additional information to Mrs. Jaffe so that she could forward it to the Board. Mr. Silbiger also asked if Mr. Delawalla could do a lay-out of all of the financials for each project. Mr. Gourley thanked the entire Environmental Sustainability Committee for their all of their hard work.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Gourley, seconded by Ms. Siever and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Mr. Zeidman adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m. in memory of Pearl Granato.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary