

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

Meeting:	<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>February 22, 2011</u>
Place:	<u>Linwood Howe Elementary (Cafetorium) 4100 Irving Place Culver City 90232</u>	Time:	<u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting 6:01 p.m. – Closed Session 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 6:00 p.m. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:01 p.m. and reconvened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m. with all Board members in attendance. The high school Counselors 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 on Closed Session item 3.3. The Board voted to release (0) temporary certificated employees and (2) long term certificated substitute employees from employment, effective as of the end of the 2010-2011 school year. The vote was unanimous with 4 – Ayes and 1 – absent. Ms. Siever had not yet arrived to Closed Session at the time of the vote. The Board voted to release (12) temporary adult school certificated employees from employment as of the end of the 2010-2011 school year. The vote was unanimous with 4 – Ayes and 1 – Absent. Ms. Siever had not yet arrived to Closed Session at the time of the vote.

7. Public Hearing

7.1 Petition for Building Bridges International Charter School

Mr. Zeidman opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m. Margot Pensavalle a credentialed teacher spoke in support of approving the charter school. She stated that it has a child-centered curriculum in addition to being community oriented. Sara Kollman asked to have the Director of the charter, Dr. Millicent Powell, speak on her behalf. Dr. Powell wanted to set the tone for the rest of the speakers. She stated that the speakers were not there to encroach on the District. The speakers were there in the spirit of collaboration. Dr. Powell expressed that they would like to share and give to the Culver City district and not take away from it. She also addressed Ms. Siever's question about the land the charter would be taking over. Dr. Powell stated that in all the information they have received there was nothing stating that there was an issue with the land having any dangerous levels of toxins, or having anything else that is unhealthy or unsafe. Sara Kollman then spoke and stated that she represents the legal firm that is working with the charter. She stated that the professors are extraordinary, and she briefly spoke about the benefits that the charter would bring the District. Ms. Kollman stated that there would not be a significant negative financial impact on the District due to the fact that most of the recruiting for the school would be outside of the District. William C. Beverly, a Retired Court Judge and resident for 30 years, spoke in favor of approving the charter. He stated that for 30 years he made sure not to get involved in anything political or anything that would have political ramifications due to his career, but felt inclined at this time to finally speak on something he felt passionately about. He spoke about his view on the need for "effective" education and how the isolation of students is growing in our nation. He feels that this charter will address those issues. George Laase spoke against the independent charter because he feels the charter will not be accountable to the District or the community. He encouraged the community to donate to the Baldwin Hills Conservancy so that they can purchase the property that the charter is also in negotiations to purchase. Laila Hasan, a professor at USC, spoke in favor of the charter and commented on the challenge of global preparation of our students in math and science. She hopes Culver City

could take the lead on this issue. David Mielke spoke against the charter and stated that the District already has great schools. He commented about the “charter movement” and how charters are not accountable to the Board or community. He urged the Board to look at the pros and cons. He also brought up the safety issues facing the site. Mr. Zeidman announced that there would be further discussion regarding the charter on March 22, 2011. There being no additional comments from the audience, the public hearing was closed at 7:16 p.m.

8. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Mr. Gourley to adopt the agenda of February 22, 2011 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

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. Mr. Laase requested that item 9.7 be withdrawn. Ms. Siever requested that items 9.2, 9.4, and 9.5 be withdrawn. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Mr. Silbiger to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1, 9.3, and 9.6 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

9.1 Minutes of Special Meeting – January 4, 2011; Minutes of Special Meeting – January 20, 2011; Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 8, 2011

9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations

9.6 Enrollment Report

9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders and Warrants

Ms. Siever withdrew this item to inquire about Purchase Order #56338. Mr. Delawalla explained that the item was for books that were previously adopted by the Board. Ms. Siever inquired about commercial warrants and if they come out of restricted and unrestricted funds. Mr. Delawalla responded that warrants are paid out of general funds and adult school funds. Mr. Silbiger inquired about item #56345. Mr. Delawalla explained that the item was for the ROP Program and it was for registration.

9.4 Approval is Recommended for the Certificated Personnel Reports No. 14

Ms. Siever inquired about items listed under Educational Services and wanted to know if it was part of the general fund. Mr. Delawalla explained that the item is paid out of restricted and unrestricted funds. Further discussion ensued about special education items and how they are funded. Mr. Delawalla confirmed that if an item is listed as special education, then it is all paid from restricted funds.

9.5 Approval is Recommended for the Classified Personnel Reports No. 14

Since the Board will be looking at budget cuts Ms. Siever had questions regarding the Instructional Assistant position and if funding was coming out of special education. Mr. Delawalla stated that it does get funded out of restricted funds.

9.7 Acceptance of Compensation Report of the Members of the Board of Education

George Laase thanked the Board for making the information public.

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve items 9.2, 9.4, 9.5, and 9.7 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations

10.1 Spotlight on Education - Culver City Middle School

Ms. Laura introduced Mr. Jon Pearson, Principal of Culver City Middle School. Mr. Pearson presented information about the Arts Integration Partnership. He spoke about how hard it is to keep middle school students engaged. He stated that with the incorporation of the arts the students have been more enthusiastic about participating and have been very engaged.

10.2 Arts Integration Partnership

Melinda Williams, Director of Education for the Music Center, introduced Mr. Mark Slavkin, Vice President of Education for the Music Center, who was also in attendance. Ms. Williams spoke about the professional development that the teachers have participated in and introduced Ruth Morris, 7th grade teacher of language arts. Ms. Morris introduced the middle school students who performed a dance routine from Alvin Ailey's *Revelations*. Jeff Rose spoke about teaching his students poetry by Maya Angelou and how they were inspired. He informed the Board how he incorporated the poetry at the beginning of the school year. Suzanna Finnally thanked the Board for encouraging the arts. Ms. Siever stated it was great to see the students perform *Revelations* during Black History Month. Ms. Paspalis thanked the staff, students, and Mr. Slavkin for attending the meeting. Mr. Silbiger stated he would like to see how the middle school's API scores are being affected by the incorporation of the arts. Mr. Pearson spoke about the strategies that are being taken to improve the scores. Ms. Sievers commended the high school for their work on trying to close the achievement gap with their African American students. Mr. Gourley asked if the program was the same one he saw the teachers learning. Ms. Williams confirmed.

10.3 Presentation by Culver City High School Counselors

Ms. Laura introduced the high school counselors that were present to inform the Board about how they serve the District's students. The counselors took turns describing the various challenges they face on a daily basis. They spoke about other programs and services that they are involved in such as the AVID Program, ELD Programs, and the college application and financing process. Mr. Gyepes thanked Mr. Zeidman and Ms. Paspalis for promptly responding to his emails. David Mielke thanked the Board for not cutting the counselor position. He stated that as a teacher and parent he very much appreciates what the counselors do on a daily basis. Ms. Siever asked if students are informed that they can attend a community college for the first two years and their tuition is paid for. Then, after completion of those first two years they can enter as a junior at the university level. Miss MacIntosh spoke about her counselor and how great he is. She stated that he always makes time to speak to her. Board members thanked the counselors for their presentation.

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

Mrs. Jaffe congratulated the middle school students on their wonderful performance at the meeting, and commended the teachers at the middle school for all of their work. Mrs. Jaffe reported that Ted Yant, the Security Supervisor, was in attendance and he will be forming a Safety Committee. The committee will review the safety inventory at the school sites. Mrs. Jaffe also announced that the California Distinguished School team will be reviewing the high school. She reported on the AVPA grant, and thanked Ms. Kristina Hatanaka for her work with the students. Mrs. Jaffe announced that student, Azalie Welsh and spoke about some of her accomplishments. Azalie Welsh won the Gold Key for her poetry anthology. Mrs. Jaffe spoke about the student focus group administered by Rebekah Howard and Steve Gyepes at the high school and the achievement of the African-American students. They found that the students attained higher achievement was due to their appreciation of the time that the teachers are taking with them, and their respect of the rules set at the high school such as the electronic policy.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports

Ms. Laura reported on Arts Integration. She announced that a theater collaboration has recently been established. Her department is looking at how theater is going to be integrated into the curriculum. Ms. Laura also reported that assessments are being reviewed, and she met with the site testing coordinators. The writing CST will be administered the first week of March to all 4th and 7th graders. The Naglieri Ability test will be given to all 3rd grade students the third week of March.

Mr. Delawalla reported that the focus now for his department is cash flow. He is also preparing for the Budget Sub-Committee meeting.

11.3 Student Representatives' Reports**Culver Park Student Representative**

Sandra Maldonado, Culver Park High School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including seniors turning in their college applications.

Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member

Jamie MacIntosh, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including the sports season starting; the Pennies for Patients fundraiser update; ASB receiving 75 applications; and the Multi-Cultural Assembly. Miss MacIntosh commented that being on the Board has been a great experience in showing her how things can be changed. On behalf of herself and the students she wanted to thank the Board for hearing their voice on hiring back Sheila Silver.

Middle School Student Representative

Sophia Greenberg, Culver City Middle School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver City Middle School, including the March 15th Book Faire at the middle school; Open House taking place on March 3rd; Pennies for Patients fundraiser update; the success of the Valentine's Dance and Valentine O'Grams; and the Cheerleaders taking second place at the National Competition in Las Vegas and girl's soccer team taking second place.

11.4 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Sierra Parsons thanked the Board for rescinding their non-rehire for Sheila Silver. She asked anyone in the audience that was there on behalf of Ms. Silver to stand to show appreciation to the Board. Miss Parsons stated that the parents and students hope to keep Ms. Silver at the school through the budget cutting process.
- David Wally thanked the Board for their public service and expressed his gratitude to the Board for keeping Ms. Silver. He stated his concern about the budget cuts, and how Ms. Silver is an excellent teacher. He thinks that the adults need to resolve any issues that led to the initial decision.
- Marni Parsons stated that Ms. Silver was unable to make the meeting, but sent her gratitude. Ms. Parsons thanked the Board for rehiring Ms. Silver and stated that now is the time for all adults to resolve their issues and get back to the task at hand.
- Frank Dorrel spoke about how much the students love Ms. Silver and encouraged the Board to keep her through the budget cuts.
- David Mielke thanked the Board for reconsidering their decision with Ms. Silver and stated how the process has been a wonderful learning experience for the students. He stated that he thinks the evaluation process needed to be reviewed.
- Liz Kinnon thanked the Board for listening to the students. She also thanked the Board for their response to emails, and for rehiring Ms. Silver.
- Janet Chabola commented on her disagreement with the rehire of Ms. Silver. She stated that she is not questioning whether Ms. Silver is a great teacher or not, her issue was with the breakdown of the process. She stated that the person in charge of the department was overruled and publicly humiliated.
- Jerry Chabola made an announcement reminding everyone about the Booster Club's upcoming Casino Night taking place on Saturday night, and provided an update on the Athletic Department.

11.4 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Silbiger thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that it was nice to see the students come out and be active participants. He announced the Budget Sub-Committee meeting would be taking place the following evening at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Silbiger commented that he loved attending the City Council Meeting where the AVPA was honored for *The Laramie Project*. He announced that the Sister City Committee is looking for students to participate in the Korean Exchange Program.
- Ms. Paspalis stated that she wished David Mielke had mentioned, when the charter school participants were present, that the Math Olympiad will be held at Linwood Howe Elementary. She commented that the soccer team was quite a good team. Ms. Paspalis provided a brief Immersion Strategic Planning Committee update, and stated that she would be attending Casino Night. She stated that the past couple of weeks had been interesting. The student e-mails were respectful and eloquent, but there were a few problems with some of

the adult e-mails received. Ms. Paspalis stated that she hopes that the site administrator at the high school will be supported by parents and students, and agreed that the administrator has a tough job.

- Ms. Siever stated that before she agrees to any budget cuts, she needs to see how the cuts will impact programs. She will not go through a budget list unless the information is provided. Ms. Siever stated that she has the greatest respect for her colleagues and site administrators. She thinks the evaluation process needs to be reviewed. Ms. Siever expressed how lucky she feels to be a part of the District.
- Mr. Gourley stated that through the process of dealing with the re-hire of Ms. Silver there was an unintentional civics lesson. He stated that the whole city is a civic lesson. Mr. Gourley also spoke about previous School Board elections. He stated that from all the e-mails he received only about 20% were from registered voters. He urged students around next year to get involved with a campaign. Mr. Gourley thanked everyone for attending and everyone who politely wrote to the Board.
- Mr. Zeidman stated that budget cuts are awful and unfortunately public schools cannot charge money to attend. He urged everyone to come out and support the high school by attending Casino Night.

Mr. Zeidman suggested moving recess up on the agenda, and item 15.1.

Pam Fader, parent, apologized for parents that were disrespectful in their e-mails to the Board.

13. Recess

The Board recessed at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

15. Board Business

15.1 CCUSD Bell Schedules

Mrs. Jaffe reported that there were two focus groups reviewing the pros and cons of the current bell schedule. She asked Mrs. Audrey Stephens, Director of the Office of Child Development, to come and speak about the Elenda complex and the start times. Mrs. Stephens informed the Board about issues that would arise from changing the bell schedule which included transportation for the special education students, the safety aspects, the financial implications, and the change effecting food services. Mrs. Stephens also stated that staff had expressed their concerns. Brad Hodge who is a secondary teacher stated his concerns on changing the schedule. Mrs. Jaffe stated that the District just invested in intervention programs and starting earlier would impact the students. She also spoke about safety with students getting out later, and discipline issues that would most likely arise. Mrs. Jaffe read a suggestion submitted by Mr. Gyepes that entailed implementing a pilot program. George Laase reminded the Board about Daylight Savings Time. Ms. Paspalis inquired about the time Farragut Elementary starts. Mrs. Stephens replied Farragut begins at 8:45 a.m. Ms. Paspalis thinks that starting all of the elementary schools at the same time is a good start. She was also glad to hear some of the concerns of the teachers. Mr. Gourley stated that he presumed Mr. Mielke had informed his group about the bell schedule issue. Mr. Silbiger stated that he was in agreement of a pilot program and the elementary school beginning at the same time. Mr. Silbiger stated that he was a little confused with some of the issues that were mentioned that would cause concern such as the food service costs and safety issues. Ms. Siever stated that she also liked the idea of a pilot program.

12. Information Items

12.1 Draft Memorandum of Understanding Between Culver City Unified School District and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Regarding Funding and the Provision of Educationally-Related AB 3632 Mental Health Services

Mrs. Jaffe presented information to the Board and explained what AB 3632 was about. Ms. Jo-Anne Cooper, Assistant Director of Special Education, provided additional information.

12.2 Measure EE Parcel Tax Expenditures

Mr. Delawalla presented the information. Mr. Laase asked if the section on maintaining class size was at the elementary level. Mr. Delawalla responded yes. Mr. Laase asked if a full-time librarian could be provided at all of the schools. Ms. Siever inquired where the allocation came from. Mr. Delawalla responded that an aggregate

method was used to come up with the allocations. Ms. Siever asked if there were any priorities taken into consideration. Mr. Delawalla stated no. Further discussion ensued. Ms. Paspalis stated that she agreed with allocation method used by Mr. Delawalla and thanked him for providing the information.

Mr. Zeidman recessed the regular meeting of the Board of Education and convened the meeting of Culver City School Facilities Financing Authority at 9:40 p.m.

1.0 Approval of the Report of the Treasurer – Controller

Mr. Delawalla presented the information to the Board. It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board of Culver City School Facilities Financing Authority approve the Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2010 as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 5 – Ayes and 0 – nays.

Mr. Zeidman closed the meeting of the Culver City School Facilities Financing Authority and reconvened the regular meeting of the Culver City Board of Education at 9:42 p.m.

14. Action Items

14.1 Superintendent's Items

14.1a Second Reading and Approval of Board Bylaw 9320, Meetings and Notices

Ms. Siever had additional questions on the Bylaw regarding the location information. Mr. Silbiger provided an amendment which states that the Board President and/or the Superintendent can alter the location of the meeting to any District or City facility as long as the location is posted at least 72 hours before the meeting. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve Revised Board Bylaw 9320, Meetings and Notices as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.1b Approval is Recommended for Resolution #16-2010/2011 to Support Placing a Revenue Extension Measure on the Ballot

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve Resolution #16-2010/2011 to Support Placing a Revenue Extension Measure on the Ballot as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.1c Approval is Recommended for the CSBA Official 2011 Delegate Assembly Ballot Region 24

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board approve and submit the CSBA Official 2011 Delegate Assembly Ballot Region 24 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.2 Education Services Items

14.2a Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Administrative Regulation 6164.6, Instruction – Identification and Education Under Section 504

Mr. Gourley moved to hold this item over for two weeks to further discuss. He would also like it to be discussed in Closed Session. Ms. Paspalis seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved to hold this item over until the next meeting to discuss.

14.2b Second Reading and Adoption of New Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5118, Students – Open Enrollment Act Transfers

Mr. Drew Sotelo presented information to the Board regarding the Open Enrollment Act. Further discussion ensued regarding placing a cap on enrollment size at the schools. It was decided that this item would come back with additional information before a vote would take place.

14.3 Business Items

14.3a Approval is Recommended for the Certification of Signatures for Warrants, Orders for Salary Payment, Notices of Employment and Related Documents

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the Certification of Signatures for Warrants, Orders for Salary Payment, Notices of Employment and Related Documents as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.4 Personnel Items

14.4a Approval is Recommended for Resolution #17-2010/2011 (HR), Regarding the Reduction or Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Service Now Being Performed by Certificated Employees

David Mielke stated that he does not understand why the most important item was at the end of the agenda. He notices that the administrative position is a .4 position. The Board cannot come to the union with a .4 position and no administrative cuts and ask for concessions. Ms. Siever asked for additional clarification on the March 15th letters. Mrs. Leslie Lockhart explained that she cannot provide Ms. Siever with certain information until the Resolution was approved so that she could then examine seniority, tenures, and “bumping” rights. At that point she could provide Ms. Siever with responses to her questions about how programs would be affected and how jobs would be replaced. Mr. Silbiger stated that he would be voting no because there was no shared sacrifice. Ms. Siever stated that she would need to abstain because there was not enough information. Mr. Gourley suggested that Mr. Mielke speak with Mrs. Lockhart to offer suggestions on how to handle the reductions. It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve Resolution #17-2010/2011 (HR), Regarding the Reduction or Discontinuance of Particular Kinds of Service Now Being Performed by Certificated Employees as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes; 1 – Nay by Mr. Silbiger; and 1 – Abstention by Ms. Siever.

14.4b Approval is Recommended for the 2011/2012 School Year Calendar

Brad Hodge, audience member, informed the Board that not all staff works in the District and how the vacation days chosen impacts staff. Ms. Paspalis asked if the Board could get two years submitted to them at a time instead of one school year calendar. Mrs. Lockhart stated yes and the following year was already being worked on. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board approve the 2011/2012 School Year Calendar as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Zeidman, seconded by Ms. Paspalis and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Mr. Zeidman adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m. in memory of Mary Catherine Carroll.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary