

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

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b><u>Regular Meeting</u></b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b><u>April 26, 2011</u></b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b><u>City Hall</u></b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b><u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u></b>
	<b><u>Mike Balkman Chambers</u></b>		<b><u>6:01 p.m. – Closed Session</u></b>
	<b><u>9100 Culver Boulevard</u></b>		<b><u>7:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u></b>
	<b><u>Culver City 90232</u></b>		

**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 7:00p.m. with all Board members in attendance. Carmen Joval 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 no reportable actions were taken.

**7. Public Hearing**

**7.1 Petition for Innovate Charter School**

Mr. Zeidman opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. David Mielke stated that he does not see why a charter school would be needed in the District when we already have such great schools. He also stated that during this financial crisis the District cannot afford to lose students to another school. Mr. Mielke felt that public funds should be used for public schools. He stated that if class sizes increase it is more likely for a charter to come into the District with smaller classes. Mr. Mielke stated that the Board should educate the public more on charter schools. No one spoke on behalf of the charter. With no further comments from the audience Mr. Zeidman closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

**8. Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Zeidman suggested pulling item 14.3b from the agenda because he said it was technically an information item at this point and there was nothing to discuss. The Board was in agreement. It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever to adopt the April 26, 2011 agenda as amended. 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. Silbiger requested that item 9.1 be withdrawn. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.2 to 9.7 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 9.2 Purchase Orders and Warrants
- 9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations
- 9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 18
- 9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 18
- 9.6 Enrollment Report
- 9.7 Single Plan for Student Achievement – Linwood Howe Elementary School
- 9.8 Proclamation in Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-6, 2011)

**9.1 Approval is Recommended for the Minutes of Special Meeting – March 16, 2011; Minutes of Regular Meeting – March 22, 2011; Minutes of Special Meeting – April 12, 2011**

Mr. Silbiger requested to add in the comments on page 95 that Mr. Zeidman did not separate the vote regarding the Superintendent's contract. Ms. Paspalis felt that she made additional statements that she would like reflected in the Minutes. Mr. Zeidman suggested tabling the vote until the next meeting so that Ms. Williams could add the additional statements to the Minutes of March 16, 2011 and March 22, 2011. The Board was in agreement.

Mr. Silbiger read the Proclamation in Recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week. All of the teachers in the audience came to the front of the audience to be recognized.

**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 April. The recipients were Jordyn Warren from El Marino School; Kenedie Cade from El Rincon Elementary; Maher Kumar from La Ballona School; Leika Ikuma from Linwood E. Howe School; Margaret Wahlert from Farragut School; Angela Uribe from Culver City Middle School; Kiran Hajidamji 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.

**10.2 Spotlight on Education - Linwood Howe Elementary**

Ms. Amy Anderson, Principal at Linwood Howe, thanked the Board, parents, staff, and everyone for their support in getting the school removed from the lowest performing schools list. She went on to inform the Board of intervention methods that are being used for the ELL students, and noted that there has been a rise in test scores. Ms. Anderson spoke about how she and the staff have been raising environmental awareness at the school, and also emphasizing a healthy lifestyle. Ms. Anderson spoke about the Safe Routes to School grant that was received and the kick-off events that took place to promote Safe Routes to School such as the Walk to School Wednesdays. She provided the Board with additional information about the grant and thanked Mike Korgan, Ted Yant, Meghan Sahli-Wells, and Gabriel Garcia for all of their work in helping Linwood Howe receive the grant.

Board members thanked Ms. Anderson for her presentation and expressed how impressed they were with the work that was being done at the school. They congratulated her on the rise in test scores.

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

Mrs. Jaffe reported on her attendance at the Los Angeles County Office of Education for the Building Bridges Charter appeal which was filed after our Board denied their petition. She stated that Office of Education has 60 days to make their decision on whether or not to grant the petition. Ms. Jaffe informed the Board that the District has been invited to join the Department of Education in writing a grant for long-term English Learners. Ms. Jaffe also reported on her attendance at the Mayor's Luncheon. She stated that everything went well during President Obama's visit, and she is happy to inform the Board that a meeting is going to take place to discuss traffic around the schools. Mrs. Jaffe congratulated the high school on receiving the California Distinguished School honor, and to Farragut Elementary for receiving recognition from the California Business for Education Excellence. She stated that she was proud to be a teacher and to see the teachers take action together.

**11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports**

Ms. Laura reported on testing throughout the District; the District's LEA Plan being in the final stages; the K-1<sup>st</sup> grade classes receiving theater classes; and she stated how much the District appreciates working with the Music Center.

Mr. Delawalla provided a brief attendance report that shows that we have increased students by about sixteen which means about \$85,000 more in revenue. He informed the Board of the renewal of the Wildwood lease which will bring in over \$400,000 dollars. Mr. Delawalla informed the Board of the challenges facing the District

since there was no special election. He spoke of the funds he was able to secure with TRAN, and stated that he issued the RFP for the solar project on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It was sent to about 40 vendors and there is a walk-thru scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 Spring Dance scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>, and Spring Fling; STAR Testing to begin next week; activities for Spirit Week; Astro Camp; fundraiser for victims of the tsunami in Japan; an ASB field trip to El Marino to talk about the middle school; and she thanked Sony for the beautiful Butterfly Garden

#### **Culver Park Student Representative**

Sandra Maldonado, Culver Park High School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including the seniors working hard trying to complete their credits for graduation; Prom tickets going on sale; Culver Park participating in Grad Night; tutoring being offered at the school; pictures being taken next month for the yearbook.

#### **Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member**

Jamie MacIntosh, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including AP exams; the AVPA art exhibit; the end of the Blood Drive; the Best Buddies Campaign; "Mix it Up" day; the AVPA dance; the upcoming Summerfest activities; Grad Night; and the ASB election to be held.

### **11.4 Members of the Board**

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Silbiger stated that he had a quick talk with Mrs. Lockhart to find out about teacher evaluations. He stated if anyone had any suggestions or input to please forward the information to him. Mr. Silbiger stated that it was wonderful to have so many people in the audience, especially the students. He explained to the audience that Sacramento has a big role in the fiscal crisis that the District is facing. He encouraged everyone to contact their representatives. Mr. Silbiger also stated that one of things he likes about our community is generally everyone works together, but he felt the previous week was pretty divisive. He asked that everyone try to be solution oriented and treat each other with respect. He wanted the upcoming speakers to think of how is staff going to share the burden and how are services going to be delivered. Mr. Zeidman explained to the audience that the Board cannot respond to their comments during Public Recognition.

### **11.5 Members of the Audience**

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Roberta Sargent spoke about the irony of having the Proclamation honoring teachers at the same meeting where cuts are on the agenda. She also commented on the Japanese Immersion program possibly moving to El Rincon and felt that the move would weaken their program. They would like to find another alternative.
- David Mielke thanked everyone for coming out and showing support. He spoke about the cuts that are on the list and reiterated what CCFT has offered in bargaining. He urged the Board to take a second look at the cuts.
- Jenny Manriquez stated that she was a strong supporter of the Dual Language Program and was happy that the Board was also in support of the program. She would like the Board to open up the discussion to the community about why the Japanese Immersion Program (JIP) would move to El Rincon because there are a lot of rumors going around in the District.
- Satomi Ezaki commented that the move of the JIP to El Rincon would be detrimental to the program. She asked the Board to look at other options.
- Loren Halleran spoke regarding the cuts. She thanked the Board for their acknowledgement in the Proclamation but stated it was a little awkward for the teachers to then take a picture with Board members. She feels that cuts could be made elsewhere and asked if parents know about the possible

extra days. Ms. Halleran thanked the Board for listening, but stated she would like to see some action.

- Jerry Chabola stated that human beings need to work together. He said that we need to stand side by side in order to work together. He congratulated Adam Friedmann on his Citizenship Award and said it was well deserved. He urged everyone to start taking a look at the parent portal and stated that we all need to be on it. Mr. Chabola also gave an update on the sports teams now that it is the middle of league season.
- Laura Siegel spoke about possibly moving the JIP to El Rincon. She thinks it is a terrible idea. She spoke about how great the program is and how her son is progressing.
- Jeannine Stehlin stated that as an English speaker she is excited about what the students learn at El Marino. She would like to see language immersion offered to anyone that would like it. Ms. Stehlin stated that the Board would be separating families, separating the kindergarteners, and hurting the older students.
- Joey Handley asked the Board to consider the environmental impact of having the programs at two different schools.

### **11.5 Members of the Board – (cont.)**

Members of the Board spoke about:

- Ms. Siever stated that the Board was hearing the comments made by the audience. She stated that she is also on the State Board and we do not have all of the information from Sacramento. From what she understands it looks like the financial crisis will maybe go through to 2015. Ms. Siever reiterated that the students are the prime objective and that no staff is more important than the other. She stated that we all have to work together. In regards to Mr. Silbiger's comments, Ms. Siever stated that she has input for the teacher evaluations. Ms. Siever stated that she was proud of Linwood Howe with the coordinating of grants and activities at the school. She commended Mr. Delawalla for the money that he brings to the District with his negotiations with Wildwood School. Ms. Siever stated that she is a delegate for the District and the budget has been a big issue. She reported on her attendance at the Mayor's Luncheon and inquired as to why the Culver City Mayor was not invited to the event at Sony. She also stated that we do not know what is going to happen with the May Revise and that would be very important.
- Ms. Paspalis reported on her attendance at the Mayor's Luncheon and noticed that the Mayor failed to mention the schools in his speech. She stated that she also gave a pint of blood for the Blood Drive at the high school. Ms. Paspalis commended Mr. Delawalla for bringing in additional revenue to the District, and she urged people to write their representatives in Sacramento. She stated that it was disingenuous to say that the Board is not being pro-active. Last year the Board presented to the union a tiered cut approach to budget cuts and it was rejected.
- Mr. Gourley thanked Ms. Paspalis for reiterating that the Board previously made an offer that was rejected. He thanked City Council for allowing the Board to use the City Chambers once a month. Mr. Gourley took a moment to explain to audience members what the May Revise was and how deferrals work. He commended Mr. Delawalla on his work in handling the Wildwood lease. He thanked the attorneys on the Board for their work on the lease that was done without fees, and the non-attorneys on the Board for their educational knowledge that they contributed which also saved a lot of money. Mr. Gourley stated that parents and the community do need some education on traffic around the schools. He would like to see some action in improving the traffic issue.
- Mr. Ziedman spoke about the costs associated with the District and stated that there is a villain, and that is Sacramento. He stated that the Board will have to do across the board cuts and there is no way around that.

**14. Action Items****14.4 Personnel Items**

Many audience members were present to speak on all items listed under the Personnel Items as a whole. Therefore, they are not broken down in any particular order of items listed on the agenda. The topic as a whole was budget cuts.

Members of the Audience:

- Phyllis Heiner spoke about her position and asked how the work would get done if her position was cut. She explained her duties to the Board including her accounting duties.
- David Mielke spoke on behalf of classified staff and stated that teachers depend on the support of classified staff.
- Yasmine Carrillo, Kelly, and Genea Dimitroff combined their statements regarding the Adult School. They stated that the Adult School has lost three classified employees already. They all individually informed the Board of their duties.
- Jackie Lee stated that it is difficult to select one area not to cut, but she was present to speak about the librarian position since she used to be one. She stated that there used to be four librarians and now there are two. The cost of the loss of books will be more than the savings of reducing hours for the librarian.
- Debbie Hamme commented that when she looked at the cuts she was struck at how close they are to the classroom. She asked what does “working together” mean? Mrs. Hamme suggests forming a committee since CBAC was not reassembled. She took a moment to inform the Board of the action that ACE had taken during negotiation when the tiered cuts were offered. She said that ACE had asked for additional information of which they did not get. When they came back to the table the offer had changed. Mrs. Hamme also questioned the cut list. She thinks the suggestions are being done in a vacuum.
- Stella Smith the Library Media Clerk wanted to make the Board cognoscente of her duties at La Ballona Elementary as a dual language school. She stated that they are trying to work together and many times she has used her own money to have someone help her open boxes, but she will not be able to do that anymore with a cut in hours.
- Robert Rodriguez, the HVAC technician, explained his job duties in keeping the air quality clean for the students and teachers.
- Denise Greenberg spoke about the cuts that are being given, which are to her colleagues and friends. She spoke about how the cuts will affect the classrooms and how students are impacted.
- Mark Reyes, Food Services Supervisor, spoke about his duties and the difficulty in the department since there is only two support staff for all eight schools. He asked the Board to reconsider a reduction in the months that he works, and reminded the Board that the Food Services Department does not infringe upon the general fund.
- Mark Azad shared a story to show an example of sharing the fortune that we have in the District.
- Cornell Myles, a security guard, stated that he loves his job and comes to school everyday for the students. He asked the Board to not cut security staff, and stated that the only thing his department is lacking is unity.
- James Beckharr spoke about the security department and explained to the Board his duties. He also informed them of the training that he has received.
- Penny Lipton, the CTA representative, spoke about the proposed classified position cuts. She informed the Board that most of the proposed hours to be cut are a bargaining item and the requirements under the Labor Act. Ms. Lipton stated that the Board cannot layoff classified employees and contract their work out. She invited all to not be a part of the problem, but a part of the solution and asked everyone to attend the May 14<sup>th</sup> rally in Pershing Square to extend the taxes.
- Ingrid Wisniewski, an Instructional Aide at Linwood Howe for ten years, stated that many of the aides have ten or more years of work with the District. She explained the duties of an Instructional Aide.
- Rebecca Godbey, kindergarten teacher at La Ballona, spoke about her concerns with cutting Instructional Aides.

- Robert Gray, the District Locksmith, spoke about the different work orders that he receives.
- Pamela Greenstein spoke in favor of keeping the Instructional Aides and explained how they help with CELDT testing and EL students. She also stated that the list of teacher cuts is very personal because it lists their names. Ms. Greenstein stated that teachers also work on nights and weekends and they do not get paid.
- Brandy Coleman strongly agreed with Mrs. Hamme's comments. She stated her concerns about class size growing. Ms. Coleman suggested that the Board find a better way to deal with the cuts. Teachers will not have enough time to teach.
- Chris Knight from the Security Department spoke about cutting the locksmith. He said it will cause more harm than good if the position is eliminated. He read the "Safety" sections mentioned on the District website, and what is stated as the District's Core Belief and Mission Statement. Mr. Knight felt that cutting the position was in opposition to what the District's beliefs were.
- Laura Chardiet stated she was in support of reinstating CBAC, and stated that the parents at La Ballona are concerned about cutting Aides that are paid for by Title 1 funds.
- Heather Moses stated that she was proud to be a part of the Immersion Program at La Ballona. Taking away Title 1 funds is detrimental to the school. She extended an invitation to the Board to come speak at a PTA or Booster Club meeting.
- Robert Zirculis commented that the substitute teachers have been making sacrifices also. He stated that he has only been called twice during April. He does not think that some administration should work twelve months.
- Marlene Carlan spoke on behalf of the students. She informed the Board about requirements for Special Education students and stated her concerns about possibly having larger class sizes.
- Lelah Pealer spoke in favor of keeping the locksmith position and gave examples of when she has had to put in a work order to him. Mrs. Pealer also inquired what was the logic of eliminating an Account Clerk III position and hiring an Accountant? She reminded the Board of their campaign promises. Mr. Gourley clarified that categorical funds became flexible so they are not as restricted at this time.
- Jerry Chabola stated that many people on the list are his friends and colleagues. He stated that CBAC is needed so that there is a group of stakeholders that are knowledgeable in discussing the budget, and can submit alternatives to the Board. He also feels that there needs to be more budget workshops where the public is encouraged to come. He stated that it is disheartening to see the low turn-out when there have been open discussions about the budget.
- Rebecca Williams read comments made by Mary Van Loo, Margarita Castaneda, and a letter written by Alex Kirk, Keao Tano, Judith Sanderson and Diane Laetz.

Ms. Siever asked how the reduction of twenty hours for Instructional Aides was going to impact the District. She asked if the services would be contracted out or if the District was going to train someone. Mr. Delawalla responded that it would be a mix of both options. Mr. Zeidman asked if there was a mandate that the Board had to make their decision at this particular meeting. Further discussion ensued about holding off on voting on the cuts. Mr. Zeidman asked Board members if they were ready to vote. Ms. Siever stated that she would prefer a few days to think about the information they received. The other Board members agreed that they were not ready to vote.

Roberta Sargent asked the Board for a tentative calculation of furlough days to save the proposed teaching positions. Mr. Delawalla stated nine furlough days would cover the proposed teacher cuts. Elizabeth Binggeli stated that textbooks come with workbooks. She asked if they were already purchased.

## 12. Information Items - None

## 13. Recess

The Board recessed at 9:30 p.m. and reconvened at 9:40 p.m.

**14. Action Items**

**14.1 Superintendent’s Items - None**

**14.2 Education Services Items**

**14.2a Approval is Recommended for New Course at Culver City High School – ROP Hospitality, Event Planning**

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the New Course at Culver City High School – ROP Hospitality, Event Planning as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.2b Approval is Recommended for New Course at Culver City High School – ROP Small Business Management**

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve a New Course at Culver City High School – ROP Small Business Management as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.3 Business Items**

**14.3a Approval is Recommended for Wildwood Lease**

Janet Chabola stated that the lease looked fantastic except that she does not know who handled the insurance section. She stated that there were a lot of problems with that section. It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the Wildwood Lease as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.3c Approval is Recommended for Budget Revisions to the General Fund**

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve Budget Revisions to the General Fund as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4 Personnel Items**

**14.4a Approval is Recommended for Resolution #27/2010-2011 (HR), Implementing Certificated Layoff (Terminating Services of Certificated Employees), and Providing Direction to Issue Notifications to Employees Whose Services are Terminated**

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve Resolution #27/2010-2011 (HR), Implementing Certificated Layoff (Terminating Services of Certificated Employees), and Providing Direction to Issue Notifications to Employees Whose Services are Terminated as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Due to the time constraint of holding the meeting at the City and the Board agreeing to the need for more time to consider their votes on the remaining Action Items, the Board agreed to continue the rest of the items on the agenda until a Special Board Meeting could be scheduled. A tentative date for that meeting is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Adjournment**

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

On: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary