

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

Meeting:	<u>Special Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>December 15, 2009</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

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

Staff Members Present

Myrna Rivera Coté, Ed.D., Superintendent
David El Fattal, M.B.A.
Gwenis Laura, Ed.S.
Patricia Jaffe, M.S.

Call to Order

Board President Mr. Gourley 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. Mr. Neil Rubenstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report from Closed Session

Mr. Gourley 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.

8. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board adopt the agenda of December 15, 2009 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Consent Agenda

Mr. Gourley called the Consent Agenda and asked if any member of the audience or the Board wished to withdraw any item. No items were withdrawn.

9.1 Culver City High School AVPA Students to Perform at the California Educational Theatre Association Competition, January 15-16, 2010 in Sacramento, CA

Ms. Laura congratulated the AVPA on their first place win. Mr. Silbiger inquired as to who would be in attendance on the trip. Ms. Laura responded that there will be a teacher present and the trip is during the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day weekend.

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve Consent Agenda Item 9.1 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations - None

11. Public Recognition

11.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Coté provided an update regarding the Race to the Top funding through the federal government, and provided information on what would be needed to submit the grant. She announced that there might be a need for a Special Board Meeting at the end of Winter Break and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports

Ms. Laura wished everyone a Happy Holiday and announced that the Spotlight on Student Achievement portion of the agenda would be resuming in a new format.

Mrs. Jaffe wished everyone Happy Holidays.

11.3 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Randy Mytar an architectural illustrator who graduated from the high school in 1965 came to the Board Meeting to make a presentation. Mr. Zeidman read a brief bio on Mr. Mytar. Mr. Mytar spoke about his fond memories of the high school and presented Dr. Coté with a watercolor portrait of the senior lawn at the high school.
- Stella Smith commented on balancing the budget and how vital it is to have a librarian at each school.
- Robert Zirgulis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He requested to nominate Alan Elmont, George Laase, Gary Abrams and himself for a Measure EE Oversight Committee.
- Jeff Rose, a teacher at Linwood Howe Elementary, stated that he appreciated not having combination classes during the late 1990s. He stated that there are now four combination classes and gave examples of the long-term issues that may arise. He asked the Board to really look at split classes, or at least having split classes at the other elementary schools as well.
- John Cohn commented on the soccer policy at the District and how troubling it was. He informed the Board that his daughter can no longer play soccer because of her involvement with Youth and Government class. He explained that the coach saw a conflict in her schedule and that affected her eligibility to play. Mr. Gourley requested to have the policy agendized. All Board members were in agreement.
- Dave Sanchez spoke in representation of the athletic department. He commented about conflicting outside activities and sports; and the investment that students need to make to their activities.
- Maggie Marquez, Librarian at Farragut Elementary, spoke about filling the Librarian vacancy at Linwood Howe. She informed the Board of the challenges that not filling this position has posed to the other librarians in the District, and asked that they hire a Library Clerk.
- Maya Cohn, a senior at the high school, commented on how she has played soccer since she was five years old and loves the sport. She informed the Board of the conflict in policy with girl's soccer and the Youth and Government program. Mr. Gourley suggested to her that she make a copy of the signatures she acquired and then submit them.
- George Laase commented that he thought about his daughters when he read about the soccer story online. He stated it is left up to the individual coaches whether or not to accept a student who is in Youth and Government, and that the acceptance of a student should not be up to a coach. He suggested having a limited policy on after-school policies.
- Alan Elmont spoke about the Chevron proposal that was previously discussed at prior meetings. He encouraged the Board to "fast track" the contract, and asked that they take more of a business approach to reviewing it. He would like the Board to resume the contract negotiations.

11.4 Members of the Board of Education

Board members spoke about:

- Mr. Silbiger wished everyone a Happy Holiday. He stated that he would be glad to agendize the issue of girl's soccer and the Youth and Government program, and he hopes when the matter comes back that the Board will have additional information. Mr. Silbiger thanked the District and members of the previous Board for approving the new Board members' attendance at the CSBA Conference. He stated he has met with leaders of the District and that it had been an exceptional experience and very educational, and he reported on his attendance at the Winter Concerts. Mr. Silbiger requested to have a discussion at the January 12, 2010 meeting on the location of the Board meetings. He would like to have the meetings at City Hall. Mr. Gourley and Mr. Zeidman agreed to agendize.
- Mr. Zeidman stated that he received twenty-seven phone calls from seniors inquiring about the parcel tax exemption and asked that the information get out to the community.
- Ms. Siever commented that she would like to broaden Mr. Silbiger's suggestion so that the Board can possibly hold the meetings at each of the campuses. She would also like to have an interpreter at the meetings. Ms. Siever also feels that the District should take part in the Race to the Top funding. She

thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated she was proud to be a Board member in the District.

- Ms. Paspalis stated that the CSBA Conference was very interesting and a worthwhile experience. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.
- Mr. Gourley wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked Mr. Elmont for reminding the Board of what their duties were. He stated that the negotiations with Chevron will be going forward. He would like to see a charrette done on the Natatorium.

12. Information Items

12.1 First Interim Report

Mr. El Fattal presented the report to Board members. Ms. Siever stated that she would like to see the agreement that the District has with the Redevelopment Agency. Mr. Silbiger stated that he has long-term concerns such as the Adult School borrowing from the General Fund. He inquired as to when the school will be self-sufficient. Mr. El Fattal stated that it was not known at this time. Mr. El Fattal responded to additional questions for clarification.

13. Recess

Mr. Zeidman suggested foregoing the recess. All Board members agreed.

14. Action Items

14.1 Superintendent’s Items – None

14.2 Education Services Items – None

14.3 Business Items

14.3a Approval is Recommended for the First Interim Budget

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the First Interim Budget as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.3b Approval is Recommended for a Rejection of a Claim

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Zeidman that the Board approve the Rejection of Claim as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.3c Approval is Recommended for a Decrease in Mileage Reimbursement Amount for School Business Travel

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the Decrease in Mileage Reimbursement Amount for School Business as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Gourley requested agendizing the appointment of a member of the Board to the negotiating team. All Board members were in agreement.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Zeidman, seconded by Ms. Siever and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Mr. Gourley adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary