

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

Meeting:	<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>January 12, 2010</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

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 Vice 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 four Board members in attendance. Mr. Gourley was absent. Mr. Rick Prieto 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 Culver City Federation of Teachers Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal to the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) for the 2009/2010 School Year

Mr. Zeidman opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. David Mielke welcomed the new Board members and provided a brief overview of some of the components of the proposal which included additional preparation time for elementary teachers, evaluations, and a new stipend for elementary teachers teaching combination classes. Alan Elmont stated that he was glad to hear from Mr. Mielke that the teachers want to take a leadership role in discussions on the teacher evaluation process. He also felt that the proposal contradicts the Race to the Top evaluation process. With no further comments from the audience Mr. Zeidman closed the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

8. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board adopt the January 12, 2010 agenda as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

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 Silbiger requested that item 9.1 and 9.7 be withdrawn. Mr. Zeidman requested that item 9.6 be withdrawn. It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.2 – 9.5 and 9.8 as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4- Ayes and 0 - Nays.

9.2 Purchase Orders and Warrants

9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations

9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 11

9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 11

9.8 Culver City Middle School Cheerleading Team to Participate in the Jamz Cheerleading National Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada February 18-19, 2010

9.1 Approval is Recommended for the Minutes of Regular Meeting – December 8, 2009; and Special Meeting – December 15, 2009

Mr. Silbiger withdrew this item to correct a typographical error. He revised the Call to Order time on the December 8, 2009 Minutes to read 5:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

9.6 Approval is Recommended for the Culver City High School Robotics Team to Participate in the First Robotics National Championship in Atlanta, Georgia April 14-17, 2010

Mr. Zeidman withdrew item 9.6 because he wanted to show a brief presentation on a Robotics competition to share the experience with the Board and audience members, and to show an example of what the students would be doing at the competition.

9.7 Approval is Recommended for Culver City High Students to Participate in the Sojourn to the Past Field Trip through Southern States, February 11-20, 2010

Mr. Silbiger pulled item 9.7 to inquire if the students would be receiving excused absences for the trip. Ms. Laura responded yes.

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve items 9.1 as amended; and items 9.6 and 9.7 as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations**10.1 American Citizenship Awards**

Dr. Coté and the Assistant Superintendents read the names and accomplishments of each school's recipient of the American Citizenship Award for the month of January. The recipients were Kennedy Simon from El Marino School; Juan Calderon from El Rincon Elementary; Julianna DeNeve from La Ballona School; Emma Kessner from Linwood E. Howe School; Amanda Jaramillo from Farragut School; Faith Gay from Culver City Middle School; Breanna VonMertens from Culver Park High School; and Chelsea Walker 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 Culver City Education Foundation – Building Blocks for Education

Ms. Injin Park, Trustee from the Education Foundation, provided information on the meaning of the Building Blocks for Education and presented two Building Blocks to Mrs. Sandra Davis. Mrs. Davis thanked the donors and gave a brief speech.

10.3 Youth and Government/School District Student Activities

Dr. Coté reported on the meeting she attended at the YMCA to discuss issues relevant to student participation in district activities and student participation in their Youth and Government program. Joining her at the meeting were Culver City High School Principal Pam Magee, Assistant Principal Ian Drummond, Athletic Director Jerry Chabola, YMCA Executive Director Darlene Kiyon, and Youth and Government Coordinator Megan McDuffy. Darlene Kiyon and Ian Drummond provided the Board with a summary of the meeting and discussed the requirements for participation in their programs. They came to the conclusion that there will be more communication between the programs. Steve Raegan questioned what would happen if a student was a member of the Robotics team and there was a conflict with an athletic event. Mr. Drummond responded that it would be dependent on the program and if there were any conflicts in dates for the particular sport. Lena Ransfer asked for clarification if Mr. Drummond was in favor or against students participating in Youth and Government. He responded that was in favor of the program. Debbie Hamme inquired about how far in advance do students have access to the dates for athletics, and if Mr. Drummond takes into consideration that the students will be applying to college and participation in these programs is good for their application. John Cohn questioned if there were any discussions about formalizing the YMCA program so that it is more of a part of the programs at the high school. Mr. Drummond responded that the high school has excused the absences of the students who are attending a Youth and Government Conference. Mr. Silbiger inquired if the policy at the high school is the same as it has been in the past. Mr. Drummond responded that in past years it has been the coaches who have decided whether or not to keep a student on the team based on the impact of that student's absences on the team. Mr. Zeidman thanked Mr. Drummond and Ms. Kiyon for their presentation and started to call audience members that

requested to speak on this topic. Mr. Cohn commented that this is now the digital age. His daughter was penalized by playing sports and being involved in the Youth and Government program. Mr. Cohn stated there was not adequate notification to his daughter or parents regarding the change in policy. Maya Cohn stated she was shocked by the soccer coach's decision to drop her from the team. She reiterated that she was never informed there would be a possibility of her getting dropped from the team if she was also involved in the Youth and Government program. She also spoke of the great experiences she has had in both activities. Dave Sanchez, one of the coaches at the high school, spoke about the importance of teamwork and that no player is above the team. He commented on the dedication that both sports and the Youth and Government program require of their players and delegates respectively. Tom Salter who has been coaching for eleven years gave commendations to the Jerry Chabola, Athletics Director. He spoke of the great work that Mr. Chabola does within the department, students, and the coaches. Mr. Salter also stated that this topic should have never gotten to the point of being discussed at a Board meeting and should have been handled at the school site level. Jerry Chabola commented that he absolutely believes that the athletics department, and district as a whole, strives for well-rounded students. He also stated that he believes in the Youth and Government Program. Jonathan Abboud commented that the Student Union believes there should be a structure set for the calendar dates so the students can make a decision on which programs they would like to participate in when choosing their classes. Steve Raegan spoke about the education his daughter has received and felt that students should not have to make a choice between activities they take. Matt Halmy stated that he agreed with the coaches in that the students will have to make the hard decisions and figure out what programs they would like to dedicate themselves to. Casey Chabola inquired if this topic was making precedence in that all it took was for the topic to be mentioned by a parent, end up in the newspaper, and then it was requested by the Board to be agendized. Lena Ransfer commented that she felt the coaches were using scare tactics with the students. Mr. Zeidman read a letter from Mr. Gourley where he stated his opinion on the topic, and did not feel that this matter should be discussed at a Board meeting. Ms. Paspalis agreed with Mr. Gourley's opinion and stated that it is not the Board's job to micromanage the District. This issue should be handled on site and the Board has bigger issues that they will be working on. Ms. Siever spoke about how students have to be responsible for their choices, and felt that there obviously was a gap in communication. She suggested that a schedule be printed ahead of time to help resolve the issue. Mr. Silbiger disagreed with the other three Board members. He spoke of one of his students who had also ran into a scheduling conflict and he came to the conclusion that students should be involved in as many activities/programs as possible. He felt that if a change in policy was made this year then the coaches should let those students play out this year. Mr. Zeidman clarified that Youth and Government is not linked to ADA funds. He stated that there is no ADA for excused absences for the last ten years, and Youth and Government is not ADA approved. He proposed that each coach put a schedule on the website by July 15th with it being subject to change. He suggested that John Cohn, Jerry Chabola, and Scott Meyer meet to discuss this issue further.

11. Public Recognition

11.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Coté wished everyone a Happy New Year and reported on her attendance at the Culver City Chamber Installation Luncheon where the Education Foundation was presented a check to assist with our schools' requests for technology. She also reported upcoming events which included the School Services Budget Workshop, and the Arts for All Fellows meeting in downtown Los Angeles. Dr. Coté announced she would be holding her fourth Employee Forum at Culver City Middle School, and the Adult School was having its very first WASC accreditation visit.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports

Ms. Laura provided an update on the plans for Professional Development days, and upcoming WASC and department meetings.

Mr. El Fattal briefly spoke about the state budget and reported that staff would also be attending budget workshops.

11.3 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- David Mielke stated that the past couple of hours discussing athletics and the Youth and Government program seems to be a site issues. He stated that there were concerns about when the professional development days were being held, and stated there's conflict with the dates. He stated that the teachers were not really involved in a meaningful way. He informed the Board that when the Union goes to bargaining on next year's calendar, they would not sign off on anything that does not have the teacher non-work day as a professional development day.
- Neil Rubenstein spoke about articles that he read regarding cleanliness in school cafeterias and inquired if the school cafeterias have been inspected. Mr. El Fattal responded yes and they are in good condition. He also informed the Board that in food services there is law that states when the cafeterias get inspected.
- Stella Smith informed the Board about the reality of moving the librarians around the district. She asked the Board to reconsider the current way the librarians are scheduled at the school sites.
- Alan Elmont spoke about the Anti-Bullying Committee and the ability for parent involvement. He stated the times for the meetings are very inconvenient to the working parents and encouraged the committee to include evening meetings. He also encouraged the Board to request that all families with students going to school in the district, but not living here and families in multi-unit dwellings pay ninety-six dollars to the Education Foundation since they do not have to pay the parcel tax.
- Robert Zirgulis asked for clarification on the policy that discusses teachers running for the School Board. He felt he had been discriminated against and felt he was not getting as much work as a substitute teacher as he was prior to running for the Board.
- John Derevlany requested a minor change to the policy regarding siblings in the District. Mr. Zeidman requested to have the policy agendized. Mr. Silbiger and Ms. Paspalis agreed.
- Cary Anderson commented on the possibility of renting the District parking lot to the Downtown Business Association for weekend valet parking.
- Luther Henderson provided information and announced the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration taking place at the Senior Center on January 16th and 17th.

11.4 Student Representatives' Reports

Middle School Student Representative

Evan Wilson, Culver City Middle School Student Representative, was not present.

Culver Park Student Representative

Jessica Romo, Culver Park High School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including Student Council partnering with El Marino to tutor the students; Margaret Fujisawa coming to the school to help the students with scholarships; and she gave an update on the HeArt Project.

Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member

Noya Kansky, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including the upcoming first Talent Show; the Link Crew having their Cocoa and Cram event on January 20th; the upcoming encore of Nicholas Nickleby at Robert Frost Auditorium; the elections starting for next years Student Council; the success of the UCLA Blood Drive; and the success of Homecoming. Miss Kansky also shared with the Board a complaint regarding Food Services.

Audience member Bill Wynn provided additional information on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event.

11.5 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Silbiger reported on his attendance at the Linwood Howe Kindergarten Night and stated what a great reputation the District has. He requested to have the issue regarding the Librarian position agendized. Mr. Zeidman and Ms. Siever agreed. Mr. Silbiger requested to have items on the website which included the current budget, the First Interim Budget, last year's cut list and the positions that were brought back, and any existing salary information. He also would like to discuss having the Board meetings at City Hall.

- Ms. Siever agreed with having an open discussion on having the Board meetings moved. She would also like discuss appointing an oversight committee for the parcel tax; and having the Chevron proposal return to the Board. Ms. Siever also commented on the fact that CBAC has been left in limbo. She reported on the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration and talked about activities happening at the marketplace during the celebration.
- Ms. Paspalis commented that the encore of Nicholas Nickelby should be great; and she announced that El Marino is hosting students from Guadalajara.
- Mr. Zeidman stated that he has been to the last two Martin Luther King Day celebrations and how great they were. He encouraged everyone to attend. He stated that there should be a way for the community to contribute to the Booster Clubs; and he announced the upcoming Casino Night taking place on February 20th.

13. Recess

The Board recessed at 8:27 p.m. and reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

12. Information Items

12.1 Race to the Top Report

Dr. Coté provided background information on the Race to the Top application. Ms. Laura gave a Power Point Presentation and provided additional information which included the Standards and Assessments required and the timelines. David Mielke encouraged the Board not to jump into applying for the funds because he felt there were too many “unknowns.” He stated that he did not agree with the top-down reform and asked the Board to take a hard look at if the reforms were what the District believes in. Alan Elmont echoed some of Mr. Mielke’s concerns, and asked if the amount of funding would cover the expense. Janet Chabola inquired if the District had an extension since the application date was due January 8th. Dr. Coté confirmed that there was an extension. She also does not agree with starting programs and then having to end them. Ms. Siever stated that everyone was enthusiastic about the funding at the CSBA Conference and felt that the District should apply. Mr. Silbiger asked if the Board would know how much funding the District would receive before signing the final MOU. Dr. Coté responded no and provided additional information. Mr. Silbiger expressed his concerns but felt that the District should apply.

12.2 Parcel Tax Information

Mr. El Fattal reported that as of the upcoming Friday, the District would be officially accepting applications for the senior exemptions. Mr. Zeidman stated he had received calls on where the seniors could get the applications and stated he would like if the applications could be mailed in. He also provided additional suggestions on making the process easier. George Laase asked how many exemptions are expected. Mr. El Fattal stated that it is unknown at this time. John Davidson stated that if documents are being collected that there should be a destruction policy in place.

12.3 Enrollment Report

Mr. El Fattal presented the report to Board members.

12.4 First Reading of Administrative Regulation 4117.11, Pre-Retirement Part-Time Employment

Mrs. Jaffe presented the Administrative Regulation to Board members. The Administrative Regulation will be brought back for a final reading.

14. Action Items

14.1 Superintendent’s Items

14.1a Approval is Recommended for the Superintendent to Submit the Ract to the Top Memorandum of Understanding to the State

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the submission of the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding to the State as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

14.2 Education Services Items**14.2a Approval is Recommended for the Expulsion of Pupil Services Case #09-09**

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the recommendation of Pupil Services Case #09-09 as presented and that the student be placed in County Community Day School or another school determined by his parents, at parental expense, until August 2010. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 - Ayes and 0 – Nays.

14.2b Approval is Recommended for the Stipulated Expulsion of Pupil Services Case #15-09

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the stipulated expulsion of Case #15-09 until August 2010 and that the student enroll in County Community Day School as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

14.2c Approval is Recommended for the Stipulated Expulsion of Pupil Services Case #16-09

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the stipulated expulsion of Case #16-09 until August 2010 and that the student enroll in County Community Day School as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes and 1 – Nay by Mr. Silbiger.

14.2d Approval is Recommended for the Program Improvement Plan for Culver City Middle School

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve the Program Improvement Plan for Culver City Middle School as presented for discussion. Ms. Paspalis stated that the Plan did not represent any timeline and inquired if there was a way to breakdown a detailed timeline. Leslie Lockhart, Director of Special Projects, stated that many of the items are currently taking place, and that the object was to move on all items in the plan as quickly as possible. It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve the Program Improvement Plan as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

14.2e Approval is Recommended for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission Consultant Services Agreement with the Culver City Unified School District

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve the Los Angeles County Arts Commission Consultant Services Agreement with the Culver City Unified School District as presented. Mr. Mielke had questions and concerns about hiring an outside consultant. He felt that we should not hire an outside consultant for work that could be provided by a teacher in the District. Ms. Laura clarified that the contract is not for an outside consultant and that it was for a group of artists. The contract was previously called the Wolf Trapp Program and it is for the kindergarten programs. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 - Nays.

14.2f Approval is Recommended for the Williams/Valenzuela/CAHSEE Lawsuit Settlement Quarterly Report on Uniform Complaints

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the Williams/Valenzuela/CAHSEE Lawsuit Settlement Quarterly Report on Uniform Complaints as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

14.3 Business Items**14.3a Approval is Recommended for Budget Revisions to the General Fund**

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve Budget Revisions to the General Fund as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

14.4 Personnel Items

14.4a Approval is Recommended for Resolution #17-2009/2010 Regarding General Liability Coverage for Volunteers

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve Resolution #17-2009/2010 Regarding Liability Coverage for Volunteers as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

15. Board Business

15.1 New Cell Tower near El Rincon Elementary School

Mr. Zeidman asked Mr. Silbiger to provide information on this item. Mr. Silbiger reported that there is a proposal to put a cell tower on top of the Cash and Carry on Sawtelle which is approximately five hundred feet from parts of El Rincon Elementary School. Brian Tjomsland spoke against the installation of the tower. Councilmember Gary Silbiger announced that there would be a public meeting at City Hall on January 19th at 7:00 p.m. where this topic will be discussed. He stated that there was community concern about health issues that might be caused by the installation of a tower. Ms. Paspalis stated she thought it was good to be aware of where they are, but the Board has no jurisdiction over this matter and does not feel the issue should be agendaized. Mr. Silbiger stated the City will have power over where the tower is installed. Further discussion ensued about submitting a Resolution to the City. Mr. Silbiger stated he would send the information he has to staff.

16. Public Recognition – Continued

16.1 Members of the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

16.2 Members of the Board

There were no comments from Board members.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Ms. Siever, seconded by Ms. Paspalis and approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 - Nays adjourn the meeting. Board Vice President Mr. Zeidman adjourned the meeting at 10:26 p.m. in memory of Patsy Flanagin and El Monte School Board Member Bobby Salcedo.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary