

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

Meeting:	<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>February 9, 2010</u>
Place:	<u>Linwood E. Howe Elementary (Cafetorium) 4034 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

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. Dr. Robert Knopf 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 the Board took action to release eleven temporary certificated employees and one long term temporary employee.

8. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman to adopt the February 9, 2010 agenda with the amendment to move item 14.4a to follow item 10.2. The motion was seconded by Ms. Siever. 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. Ms. Paspalis requested that item 9.1 and 9.2 be withdrawn. Dr. Coté removed item 9.11 from the agenda since it was omitted from the agenda packet. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Mr. Silbiger to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.3 - 9.10 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 9.3 Acceptance of Gifts - Donations
- 9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 13
- 9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 13
- 9.6 Culver City Middle School 7th Grade GATE Students to Attend Astro Camp, Idyllwild, CA, April 30 to May 2, 2010
- 9.7 Culver City High School Baseball Team to Participate in the Varsity Baseball Tournament in San Diego, CA, March 29 to April 1, 2010
- 9.8 Culver City High School Girls Lacrosse Team to Attend a Team Building Camping Trip to Carpinteria State Beach, Carpinteria, CA, Feb. 26-27, 2010
- 9.9 Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for El Rincon Elementary School
- 9.10 Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) for La Ballona Elementary School

9.1 Approval is Recommended for the Minutes of Regular Meeting - January 26, 2010; and Special Meeting - February 3, 2010

Ms. Paspalis requested that this item be withdrawn to confirm the grades stated in Ms. Laura's report on page 53 of the January 26, 2010 Minutes where it states that "Ms. Laura provided an update on the twelfth grade students' participation in a national study..." Ms. Laura confirmed that it was fifth through twelfth grade students. Mr. Silbiger requested that it be added to Dr. Coté's statement in item 15.1 in the January 26, 2010 Minutes, that she

suggested any change to the locations of the Board meetings commence in July. Ms. Siever requested that in item 15.1 on the January 26, 2010 Minutes Mr. Luther Henderson be changed to Dr. Luther Henderson. Ms. Siever also requested on that same item that the Minutes state that Dr. Henderson is a member of the Cultural Affairs Commission instead of was. (In review of the Minutes they did in fact state that he "...is a member of the Cultural Affairs Commission..." Therefore a change will not be required.) It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting - January 26, 2010 as amended; and Special Meeting - February 3, 2010 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders and Warrants

Ms. Paspalis commented that the consultants listed are mostly for Special Education. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve purchase orders from January 16, 2010 through January 29, 2010 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

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 recipients of the American Citizenship Award for the month of February. The recipients were Talia Walderman from El Marino School; Jacob Cravens Meza from El Rincon Elementary; Kulianna DeNeve from La Ballona School; Ruby Walsleben from Linwood E. Howe School; David Jeong from Farragut School; Jessica Mahoney Culver City Middle School; Michael Chacon from Culver Park High School; and Zachary Mullings 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 Lions Club

Mr. Zeidman introduced Dr. Robert Knopf, President of the Culver City Lions Club, and provided information on the services that the Lions Club has provided to the district over the years. Mr. Gourley read the Proclamation being given to the Lions Club and further commented on all the great work they do. Dr. Knopf accepted the Proclamation and gave a brief speech.

Action Items

14.4 Business Items

14.4a Approval of 2010/2011 Expenditure Reductions

Mr. Gourley introduced Mr. El Fattal who provided an update on the Governor's budget which is forcing the District to proceed with budget cuts. Mr. El Fattal explained that there was a revised budget page available. The item revised was 12h where twelve months was changed to eleven months, and the salary was changed. Mr. Gourley requested to remove all items under number 12 which referenced the Adult School. Mr. Silbiger seconded the request, and all Board members were in agreement. This item will be brought back in two weeks. Ms. Paspalis requested to remove item 7b from the list. She stated she would be voting no on this item. Mr. Gourley decided audience members would have three minutes to speak. Comments from audience members in regards to the proposed budget cuts are as follows:

- Traci Cho from Center Theater Group spoke in support of keeping the Arts Consultant.
- Robert Zirculis spoke in support of keeping the Art Consultant and stated the Board should not cut any personnel. He followed up on prior suggestions he gave to the Board regarding bringing money into the District.
- Janice Pober spoke about art from the Renaissance Period and cultural experiences in support of keeping the Art Consultant.
- David Mielke acknowledged the District was losing two good employees, Patricia Jaffe and David El Fattal. In regards to the budget he questioned what the other "phases" looked like since the current proposed cut list stated "First Phase." He also spoke against the "culture at Irving Place" and stated that the Board needs to consider cutting items such as mileage allowances, paid vacations, Board Member benefits, and changing twelve month employees to eleven months.

- Mr. Coontz spoke in favor of keeping the Art Consultant, and gave information about the BOSE Program.
- Dr. Jessica Beagles-Roos spoke in favor of keeping the Art Consultant and the PR Consultant. She also spoke about the positions and what they contribute to the District.
- John Bakunin asked that the Board remember during this time of budget cuts that the primary goal is to educate the kids.
- Jackie Lee inquired about the Art Consultant position, and asked the Board to keep the cuts as far away from the students as possible. She also informed the Board about a rally against budget cuts that is being planned on March 4, 2010.
- Micheal Marsh addressed the fact that many people say to "keep the cuts far away from the classrooms" when in fact many jobs that are not directly with the students, still affect them. If positions cut at the district level are removed and end up trickling into the classrooms, then it will eventually affect the students.
- Nathan Birnbaum spoke in favor of keeping the Art Consultant.
- Barbara Perello agreed with David Mielke that Mrs. Jaffe and Mr. El Fattal will be missed. She spoke in favor of keeping the Director of Special Projects position and informed the Board of how having this position contributes to the District.
- Roberta Sargent stated that she would like to see cuts at the district level before proceeding with additional cuts. She also asked when furlough days are negotiated and both unions say no, what would be the alternative plan.
- Alan Elmont spoke about how cuts were decided in the past and what CBAC contributed to the process. He felt that there needed to be more community input.
- Jeff Rose spoke about the combination classes at Linwood Howe and the negative effects of having no teacher assistants. He would like the Board to reconsider having the combination classes, or consider having the classes at all of the schools.
- Pamela Greenstein spoke in favor of keeping the Director of Special Projects position.
- Roberta Sargent inquired if the Board will be coming to the school sites.

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that item 7b be eliminated from consideration of the proposed budget cuts. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Gourley spoke about the budget received from the Governor last year and how it was 2.8 million dollars short. He stated that even the numbers that are being considered now as a budget are not real. Mr. Zeidman spoke about the budget cuts and how he has considered each item. He gave his rationale for each line item and provided a list of items that the community felt were important enough not to cut.

Additional audience members:

- Pam Thayer had questions regarding the possible furlough days and asked what happens to the students.
- Kathy McConkey asked if the Board considered rolling furlough days.

Karlo Silbiger agreed with Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley that he does not want to have to make cuts. He stated that the process has gone smoother than in previous years, and thinks the public needs to acknowledge that staff has done a better job. He was not comfortable continuing with the process without a complete list of cuts. He would like to wait two weeks to do the cuts, but will go forward. Mr. Silbiger stated that all staff needed to feel the cuts. He provided figures from research he had done regarding administrative staff and feels the Board needs to cut more at Irving Place. Mr. Silbiger stated he would like to have additional information on the contract for the website; have a discussion regarding the legal staff; revisit the topic of Board health benefits; and talk about mileage allowances.

Additional audience members:

- Jackie Lee stated that she confirmed with CalPers that service credit would not be a problem in regards to furlough days as long as the calendar is adjusted.
- Flora Torres stated that the Librarian position at Linwood Howe still has not been filled; and she felt that the Athletic Transportation should not be cut.

- Micheal Marsh informed the Board of projects that he was working on.
- Casey Chabola commented on furlough days and stated that the amount should come out to the same percent of salary lost across the board.
- Jerry Chabola stated he would like to see a priority list once funds start to be reestablished. He also stated that the athletic department represents teamwork and he thinks they will rise to the occasion through the budget cuts.
- George Laase stated that in 1992 there was a ten percent cut, and suggested making a "clean cut."

Ms. Siever stated that the Board needs to look at reforming CBAC. She reviewed a 2007 statewide study on schools and the district was not top-heavy. Ms. Siever felt that members of the school district should stop going into a "we" or "they" mindset and work as a team. She stated that she does not take any health benefits and agrees that the topic of Board Member health benefits needs to be revisited. She commended the staff that came from their sites to speak at the meeting and give their suggestions. Ms. Siever suggested that the Board come together to form its goals and objectives.

Ms. Paspalis thought the list represented a pretty good job of keeping the cuts away from the classroom. She felt that more parents making more noise in Sacramento would be a good thing.

Mr. Gourley thanked Neil Rubenstein for staying at the meeting for so long to speak on a non-agenda item. Mr. Gourley noted that there were no cuts in security or counselors on the list. He announced that Todd Johnson's son won the District Spelling Bee.

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve item numbers 1 through 6; 7a, 7c, and 7d; 8 through 11; and 13 of the 2010-2011 Expenditure Reductions. The motion was unanimously approved.

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve item numbers 14 and 17 only on the 2010-2011 Expenditure Reductions. Since the Board was not taking action on item 12, item 16 could not be considered. Additional information was needed for item 15, and he stated that item 13, five furlough days, was going to have to be negotiated. The motion was unanimously approved.

13. Recess

The Board recessed at 9:06 p.m. and reconvened at 9:24 p.m.

11. Public Recognition

11.3 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Neil Rubenstein commended the Board for being so dynamic. He spoke of an article from USA Today regarding AP Programs in the schools and stated that he was happy the AP Program at the high school is doing so well. He expressed his appreciation for the great education his son received in the district. Mr. Gourley thanked Mr. Rubenstein for all that he does for the district and the community without expecting anything in return.
- John Derevlany spoke about the Board reviewing the sibling enrollment policy in the elementary schools.

Due to the time of evening Dr. Coté asked that the students give their reports before hers.

11.4 Student Representatives' Reports

Middle School Student Representative

Evan Wilson, Culver City Middle School Student Representative, had been present but was unable to stay due to the lengthy meeting.

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 Talent Show on February 26th; the school's fundraiser for Haiti which raised \$1,200 in a week; a rally held regarding the school's electronics policy; AVPA Cabaret Night; Summerfest on June 3rd; the start of the ASB elections and the application period; and an update on the monthly House of Representatives meeting.

Culver Park Student Representative

Jessica Romo, Culver Park High School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including the school being honored as one of the Model Continuation High Schools in the state. She also thanked Dr. Coté for sharing the information with staff throughout the district.

11.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Coté reported on the annual District Spelling Bee and announced Simon Johnson as the winner, Elise Park as the 2nd place winner, and Natasha Collier as the 3rd place winner. She announced that La Ballona would have its Distinguished School visitation on March 9th, and the principal at La Ballona also received a call from the Department of Education asking her to complete the application for the National Blue Ribbon recognition. Dr. Coté also reported on her meeting at the Culver City Chamber of Commerce where a discussion took place on ways the Chamber could be more involved in the district.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports

Ms. Laura reported on her attendance at the annual District Spelling Bee.

Mrs. Jaffe her attendance at a workshop regarding the AB1025 Bill and what was needed to receive certification.

Mr. Gourley requested that Jerry Chabola speak since he missed his Speaker Card. Mr. Chabola announced the upcoming Casino Night on February 20th. Mr. Chabola also felt that in light of what was happening with the budget, the topic of synthetic turf should return for discussion. Mr. Gourley would like to hear about the health and safety aspects of synthetic turf.

11.5 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Silbiger thanked Mr. El Fattal for having the budget information on the website, and was happy to see that Pod Casts of the Board meetings were now available on the website. He requested a comprehensive update on the Anti-Bullying Committee. Mr. Gourley and Mr. Zeidman agreed that they would also like the update. Mr. Silbiger reported on his attendance at AVPA's Cabaret night and thought it was incredible, and he spoke about the recognition received by cast members of Nicholas Nickelby. He inquired why Open House was the same night for both El Marino and Linwood Howe. Ms. Laura stated she would include that information in her Friday Memo to the Board.
- Mr. Zeidman stated he would also like an update on the Anti-Bullying Committee. He also gave recognition to the Nicholas Nickelby performance. Mr. Zeidman thanked his fellow Board members and administration for working together on the budget cut list. He addressed Mrs. Jaffe and Mr. El Fattal to acknowledge they will be missed.
- Ms. Siever congratulated Mrs. Jaffe and Mr. El Fattal, and gave commendations to Mr. Zeidman for his summary on the budget. She stated she would like to have a colleague from West L.A. College come and discuss grants with the Board; and she would like to hear from Mr. Johnson on "greening" the district. Ms. Siever would also like to revisit reestablishing CBAC, and she stated she was happy to be working with the Board.
- Ms. Paspalis thanked Mrs. Jaffe and Mr. El Fattal for their years working for the district. She reported on her attendance at the annual District Spelling Bee. Ms. Paspalis expressed that she was not happy about ADA being lost for team building and hopes that someone informs the lacrosse coach. She mentioned that there were no cuts in aides, security, and counselors. She agrees to agendizing the topic of artificial turf and hearing from Ms. Siever colleague on "going green."

- Mr. Gourley commended administration and the unions on working on the budget cuts. He thanked Mrs. Jaffe and Mr. El Fattal for helping to run the district. Mr. Gourley reported on his attendance at the annual District Spelling Bee. He apologized if anyone interpreted him as being rude due to his request that speakers stand in line to speak when their name was called. He thought it was great that out of all of the speakers only two were not registered voters. Mr. Gourley read a Declaration of Contempt submitted by a member of the Culver City High School Student Union.

12. Information Items

12.1 First Reading of Revised Administrative Regulation 4361.5, Military Leave

The Board reviewed the Administrative Regulation. It will be brought back for adoption.

14. Action Items

14.1 Superintendent's Items

14.1a Approval is Recommended to Complete and Submit the Official 2010 CSBA Delegate Assembly Ballot

The Board decided that they would vote for Ms. Siever only. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board approve the Official 2010 CSBA Delegate Assembly Ballot with the Board's vote for Ms. Patricia Siever only. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.1b Approval is Recommended to Submit a Letter of Support to the City of Culver City in Opposition to the Placement of the Proposed T Mobile Cell Tower Installation

It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve the Letter of Support to the City of Culver City as presented. The Board discussed the letter that was presented by Mr. Silbiger. Mr. Zeidman stated his concerns with the letter and provided suggestions for revisions. The Board agreed on the revisions. Mr. Gourley stated he would like to see a letter sent to the federal authorities. Mr. Silbiger and Mr. Zeidman agreed. Mr. Silbiger will draft the letter to the FCC. Mr. Gourley would like it copied to Senator Diane Watson. It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board approve to submit a Letter of Support to the City of Culver City in Opposition to the Placement of the Proposed T Mobile Cell Tower Installation as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.2 Personnel Items

14.2a Approval is Recommended for the 2010/2011 School Year Calendar

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the 2010/2011 School Year Calendar as presented. Mr. Gourley thanked Kelli Tarvyd for her e-mail to the Board regarding how the calendar is planned. Pamela Greenstein provided clarification on the ten-day Spring Break issue. Ms. Siever stated that the start date for the school year seemed to be of concern for some parents who feel that it may be too hot to begin in August. Further discussion ensued. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.2b Approval is Recommended for the 2008/2009 Agreement Between the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) and the Association of Classified Employees (ACE)

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the 2008/2009 Agreement between the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) and the Association of Classified Employees (ACE) as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.3 Education Services Items - None

15. Board Business - None

16. Public Recognition – Continued

16.1 Members of the Audience

There were no comments from members of the audience.

16.2 Members of the Board

Members of the Board spoke about:

- Mr. Zeidman stated that he would like to look into sending the Board's Friday packets via e-mail. The Board agreed.

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. Gourley adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary