

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

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b><u>Regular Meeting</u></b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b><u>May 25, 2010</u></b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b><u>District Administration Office</u></b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b><u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u></b>
	<b><u>4034 Irving Place</u></b>		<b><u>6:01 p.m. – Closed Session</u></b>
	<b><u>Culver City 90232</u></b>		<b><u>7:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u></b>

**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**  
**Ali Delawalla**  
**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 7:05 p.m. with all Board members in attendance. Alan Elmont 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.

Ms. Paspalis announced that passing of student Jacob Olivarri, and read comments that she had received from students about Mr. Olivarri. Ms. Paspalis asked for a moment of silence.

**7. Public Hearing**

**7.1 Tier III Flexibility Program**

Mr. Gourley opened the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m. and asked for an explanation of the program. Mr. Delawalla explained what the Flexibility Program was and how the funds could be used. He further explained that the funds are already in the general fund and they are not restricted. Mr. Gourley provided additional information and explained that the District is not getting additional money from the state. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Paspalis to close the Public hearing. The motion was unanimously approved. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

**8. Adoption of Agenda**

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman that the Board adopt the May 25, 2010 agenda with the amendment to move Item 10, Awards, Recognitions and Presentations, to follow item 8, Adoption of Agenda; and move Item 12, Information Item, forward to follow Item 10, Awards, Recognitions, and Presentations. The motion was unanimously approved.

**10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations**

**10.1 Recognition of Rotary Club Donation of Dictionaries to Third Graders**

Dr. Coté provided information on the contributions of the Culver City Rotary Club to the community and to the District. She read the Proclamation that was signed by all Board members. President Bill Gardner accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Rotary Club and thanked Dr. Coté and the Board for the recognition.

**10.2 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 May. The recipients were Danielle Martinez from El Marino School; Luke Moniz from El Rincon Elementary; Hailee Saldivia from La Ballona School; Natalie Monge from

Linwood E. Howe School; Nicholas Federizo Jimenez from Farragut School; Kaitlyn Sawyer from Culver City Middle School; Jessica Escoto from Culver Park High School; and Benjamin Humphrys 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.

## **12. Information Items**

### **12.1 May Revise and Year-End Budget Projections**

Mr. Delawalla presented information on the Governor's May Revise to the 2010-2011 State budget and its effect on Culver City Unified School District. Also presented were the year-end budget projections for the District. Board members thanked Mr. Delawalla for his presentation.

## **14. Action Items**

### **14.2 Education Services Items**

#### **14.2b Approval is Recommended for New Culver City High School Class – Spanish 1 Immersion/Native Speakers**

Claudia Vizcarra stated that she was in support of the program, but asked the Board to look at the root problem of the immersion program. Jenny Manriquez felt the proposed program was great, but the immersion program at the middle school and high school needed improvement. She asked the Board to consider assembling a task force to help keep the students interested in the immersion program once they got to middle school and high school since it is considered an elective at that point. Mr. Silbiger agreed with the speakers and asked that a presentation be brought to the Board with additional information on the immersion program. Ms. Paspalis commented that she would like to see the same energy put into making the district an immersion district, just as it was in the district becoming an Arts for All district. Ms. Paspalis and Ms. Siever agreed that a presentation should be brought to the Board. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the New Culver City High School Class – Spanish 1 Immersion/Native Speakers as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **11. Public Recognition**

### **11.3 Members of the Audience**

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Kathy McConkey extended an invitation to the Board and the administration to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Java Gala benefit for AVPA Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.
- Mario Balibrera, a teacher at the middle school, spoke about his Foreign Language program. He stated his concern about his Spanish classes not being offered.
- Andrew Pascoe stated his concerns about the recent negative comments made against the music program. He shared his ideas on ways to educate students more, and spoke against the recent cuts to the Music Department. Mr. Silbiger requested to get enrollment information on the elective classes.
- Liz Kinnon stated that she realized it was a tough time for everyone, and shared her appreciation for everyone's hard work. She inquired as to what employees would be included in furlough days. Mr. Zeidman responded that all employees would be affected. Ms. Kinnon also thanked Mr. Delawalla for his presentation. She asked everyone to respect each other through this process and keep the students first.
- Davie Mielke stated he was happy there was a tentative agreement between the District and the teacher's union. He reported that teachers agreed to five furlough days, and stated his reasons why negotiations took so long. He read a statement from the School News publication and asked when the statement was made because there was incorrect information.

### **11.1 Student Representatives' Reports**

#### **Middle School Student Representative**

Evan Wilson, Culver City Middle School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver City Middle School, including the Annual Variety Show on June 4<sup>th</sup>; the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards on June 10<sup>th</sup>; the 8<sup>th</sup> grade yearbook signing on June 15<sup>th</sup>; the 8<sup>th</sup> grade picnic at Vets Auditorium; and Promotion on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Culver Park Student Representative**

Jessica Romo, Culver Park High School Student Representative, was not present.

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

Noya Kansky, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including the success of the UCLA Blood Drive; the upcoming Grad Night at Disneyland; the Summerfest event; Prom festivities; and AVPA's upcoming performance of "Yellow Boat" at the Black Box Theater.

Mr. Gourley called for item 14.1a and 14.1b to come next on the agenda.

**14. Action Items****14.1 Superintendent's Items****14.1b Approval is Recommended for a Renewed Contract for the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services**

Melinda Williams, Director of Education at the Music Center shared her thoughts about the great work being done by Ms. Gwenis Laura. Hank Linderman, parent and co-chair on the Anti-Bullying Task Force, spoke in support of Ms. Laura and complimented her gentle nature. Mark Slavkin, Vice President of the Music Center, spoke in support of Ms. Laura and wanted everyone to understand the role that the District has played in the Arts for All Program. He also spoke about the importance of partnerships and commended Dr. Coté, Ms. Laura, and Ms. Bush on cultivating great partnerships for the program. David Mielke shared the union's issues with the contracts and stated that his comments were not directed at the individuals, but at the actual positions. Inez Bush shared her thoughts in support of Ms. Laura. Peter Bian spoke in support of Ms. Laura and shared some of the District's accomplishments under her leadership. Casey Chabola inquired about the mileage reimbursement clause in the contracts, and asked if there is reimbursement to staff for travel to different school sites. Helen Dunton stated that she moved to Culver City because of the great schools, and she felt that to add more administrators and cut teachers would be unbelievable. Jon Bakunin wanted to comment that the students learn at the school sites. He stated that he had been assigned to drive around town for matters regarding textbook adoptions and he never asked for mileage reimbursement. Dr. Coté stated that her recommendation is approval on items 14.1a and 14.1b. Mr. Silbiger commended Ms. Laura on the work she has done for the District, especially with the arts. He then stated his concerns on the mileage allowance and how he amazed he was on the e-mails he has received regarding the issue. Mr. Silbiger would like the travel allowance changed to a reimbursement. Ms. Siever stated she initially had an issue with the mileage allowance, but then it was explained to her. Mr. Zeidman read a statement which shared his thoughts on making decisions that are best for the District, and not to just please any specific group. His statement also included how he came to his decision on the mileage allowance. Ms. Paspalis commented that staff might have a little higher mileage one month and lower mileage in others. To do a reimbursement would probably cost more money for the District after staff having to process the paperwork and cut checks. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever for the Board to approve keeping the position of Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. The motion was unanimously approved. It was then moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Mr. Zeidman to approve the Renewed Contract for the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 1 – Nay by Mr. Silbiger.

**14.1a Approval is Recommended for a New Contract for the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Business Services**

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve keeping the position of Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. The motion was unanimously approved. It was then moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Mr. Zeidman that the Board approve the New Contract for the Position of Assistant Superintendent of Business Services as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 1 – Nay by Mr. Silbiger.

**13. Recess**

The Board recessed at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

**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 and Ms. Siever requested that 9.1 be withdrawn. Dr. Coté noted that in Item 9.4, number 1a was pulled. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Mr. Silbiger to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.2, 9.3, 9.5 – 9.9 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

9.2 Purchase Orders

9.3 Acceptance of Gifts

9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 20

9.6 Acceptance of the Enrollment Report

9.7 Tracy Pumilia, El Marino Principal, to Attend the International Spanish Academy in Comillas, Cantabria, Spain, June 21-23, 2010

9.8 2010-2011 Designation of CIF Representatives to the Ocean League

9.9 Office of Child Development Agency Annual Report

**9.1 Approval is Recommended for the Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 11, 2010; and Special Meeting – May 13, 2010**

Ms. Paspalis corrected the May 13, 2010 Minutes to reflect that Vice President, Scott Zeidman, adjourned the meeting. Ms. Siever corrected the header of the May 11, 2010 Minutes to reflect the correct month of May. Ms. Siever asked for it to state in item 11.5 of the May 11, 2010 Minutes that Adia Benton was a Culver City Unified student. Ms. Siever also requested clarification to her statement on the May 11, 2010 Minutes on page 102. She felt it read as if she would be hosting a grant writing workshop. She asked that it be clarified it would be arranged to get grant writers together from the District and West L.A. College to have a workshop. It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 11, 2010; and Special Meeting May 13, 2010 as revised. The motion was unanimously approved. Liz Kinnon asked for a correction to item 11.3. She asked that a speaker's name, Nicholas, be removed and corrected to Kevin Mitchell.

**9.4 Approval is Recommended for the Certificated personnel Reports No. 20**

Dr. Coté stated that item 1A Extra Assignment was pulled from the report. Ms. Siever inquired as to what would be the total amount of the assignments. It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Mr. Zeidman that the Board approve the Certificated Personnel Report No. 20 with the removal of item 1A. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Dr. Coté thanked David Mielke, his negotiating team, Mrs. Jaffe, and the District's team for all of their hard work to settle negotiations. Dr. Coté provided an update on a recent historic lawsuit filed against the State, Robles-Wong, et al. vs. the State of California. The suit asks the court to "compel the state to align its funding policies and mechanisms with its educational programs." She also provided an updated that the state is trying to push through an application for the second round of Race to the Top funding. Dr. Coté reported on the Downtown Business Association organizing a fundraiser for the elementary garden projects at the beginning of June. She announced Nash Valenzuela, an Independent Study student, having won Congresswoman Diane Watson's art contest and he would be going to Washington, D.C. to participate in the ceremonies and see his artwork hanging in the US Capitol. Dr. Coté also announced AVPA Art students, Angie Bac and Azalie Walsh were chosen to serve as interns for the LA County Museum of Art for the 2010-2011 school year.

**11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports**

Ms. Laura provided an update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Bullying Forum. She reported that the CCEF grants were being submitted, and gave an update on the Arts for All program. Ms. Laura also shared her experience in attending the "Darn Yankees" performance. She thought it was great.

Mrs. Jaffe reported on her attendance at the "Darn Yankees" performance and thought it was fabulous. She thanked Mr. Mielke, his team, the CCUSD team, and mediator for all of their hard work.

**11.5 Members of the Board**

Board Members spoke about:

- Ms. Siever commented on her attendance at the CSBA Delegate Assembly and told the Board that she would be doing a one page report that she would like attached to the Minutes. She stated that she thinks the Board needs to meet to discuss its goals and objectives. Ms. Siever requested a Thank You letter be sent to Larry Eisenberg for facilitating the “Going Green” Board workshop. She also would like the Board to discuss future Board committees and their structure.
- Mr. Silbiger commented on his attendance at the Anti-Bullying meeting; and the Linwood Howe “Buckaroo Bash.” He commended Amy Anderson and staff for a great event. He thought the musical at the middle school was very good and a lot of credit goes to the Music Department. Mr. Silbiger thanked Dr. Coté for following up on possibly moving the Board meetings. He also gave the Board his written suggestions for committee structure. Mr. Silbiger responded to Mr. Mielke’s earlier comment. Mr. Silbiger confirmed it was his article in School News and it was written prior to making decisions on positions being cut.
- Ms. Paspalis reported on her attendance at “Darn Yankees.” She thought it was great. Ms. Paspalis requested to have a presentation on K-12 immersion and to approve secondary immersion. She would also like to hear more information on energy savings.
- Mr. Zeidman reported on an article he read regarding Chevron.
- Mr. Gourley stated he would like the name of the teacher that had students send him letters on Styrofoam cups, and he would like permission to speak to the students. He also extended an apology to the student that was referenced earlier in the meeting and asked Ms. Kinnon for the student’s contact information so he could speak to him personally.

**14. Action Items – cont.****14.2 Education Services Items – cont.****14.2a Approval is Recommended for Revisions to Culver City High School’s Graduation Requirements**

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Mr. Silbiger to approve the Revisions to Culver City High School’s Graduation Requirements as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.3 Business Items – None****14.4 Personnel Items****14.4a Third Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 1240, Volunteer Assistance**

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Paspalis to adopt the Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 1240, Volunteer Assistance as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4b Third Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 4127/4227/4327, Temporary Athletic Team Coaches**

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Siever to adopt the Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 4127/4227/4327, Temporary Athletic Team Coaches as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4c Approval is Recommended for a New Job Description – Assistant Director of Special Education**

Dr. Coté explained that this was not a new position. It was a new job description. Mr. Mielke commented that the unions were anticipating a streamline in administration. Mr. Silbiger felt that if ever the District needed an administrator it would be in this area and requested the item be postponed for two weeks. Ms. Siever agreed. Further discussion ensued as to whether or not the decision could be held off for two weeks. Mr. Silbiger moved to hold off the decision for two weeks. Ms. Siever seconded the motion. The motion did not pass with a vote of 2 – Ayes and 3 – Nays by Ms. Paspalis, Mr. Gourley, and Mr. Zeidman. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and

seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the New Job Description – Assistant Director of Special Education as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes; 1 – Nay by Mr. Silbiger; and 1 – Abstention from Ms. Siever.

**14.4d Approval is Recommended for A New Job Description – Director of Human Resources**

Ms. Siever stated she would like to see what the old job descriptions look like and asked for a few changes in wording. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the New Job Description – Director of Human Resources as revised. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4e Approval is Recommended for Resolution #42/2009-2010, Catastrophic Leave for Certificated Employee**

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve Resolution #42/2009-2010, Catastrophic Leave for Certificated Employee as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**15. Board Business - None**

**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 10:00 p.m. in memory of Jacob Olivarri.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary