

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

Meeting:	<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>November 18, 2008</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

Dana Russell, D.D.S., President
Jessica Beagles-Roos, Ph.D., Vice President
Saundra Davis, M.A., Clerk
Scott Zeidman, Esq., 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 Dr. Russell 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 not present. Ms. Patty Krause led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report from Closed Session

Dr. Russell reported that the Governing Board met in Closed Session regarding issues listed on today's Closed Session agenda and announced that action was taken to dismiss one permanent classified employee based upon the recommended decision of a Hearing Officer with a roll call vote of 3 –Ayes, 1 – Nay, and 1 - Absent.

8. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Mrs. Davis that the Board adopt the agenda of November 18, 2008 as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

9. Consent Agenda

Dr. Russell called the Consent Agenda and asked if any member of the audience or the Board wished to withdraw any item. Mr. George Laase requested that item 9.2 be withdrawn for a comment. Dr. Russell stated that he had requested that when item 9.5 moved to pull 1C4. It was moved by Dr. Beagles-Roos and seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1, 9.3 – 9.7 as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 - Nays.

9.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting – October 28, 2008

9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations

9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 7

9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 7

9.6 CCHS AVPA Students and Teachers to Attend 2009 California Educational Theatre Association Festival and Competition, January 16-18, 2009, Fontana, CA

9.7 El Marino Principal Tracy Pumilia to Attend IV International Spanish Academies Seminar, Valencia, Spain, December 10-12, 2008

9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders

Mr. Laase requested that this item be pulled so that he could make a comment. He stated he was happy to see the Board make an attempt at being transparent, but he would like to see each Board members' expenditures itemized. He further requested that additional information regarding health insurance be presented. He made suggestions of what information could be added to the statement. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Dr. Beagles-Roos that the Board approve the purchase orders from October 20, 2008 through October 31, 2008 as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays. There was a consensus of all Board members present in agreement with Mr. Laase's request for the additional information.

Dr. Russell requested that Mr. El Fattal present Ms. Julie Garcia as the new Director of Food Services. Mr. El Fattal provided a brief bio of Ms. Garcia. Ms. Garcia briefly thanked the Board and stated her enthusiasm in working for the District.

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 November. The recipients were Shelby Miyamoto-Kim from El Marino School; Steven Lerner from El Rincon Elementary; Alexis Lawson from La Ballona School; Ella Teran from Linwood E. Howe School; Roxie Peterson from Farragut School; Sara Aboobakar from Culver City Middle School; Sandy Avila from Culver Park High School; and Kyle Genius from Culver City High School. Dr. Russell presented each recipient with a pin and certificate; and thanked the students and their families for attending the meeting.

10.2 Spotlight on Education - La Ballona Elementary

Dr. Coté introduced Christine Collins, Principal of La Ballona Elementary School. Ms. Collins along with two fifth grade students, Dylan McCoy and Alexis Larson, presented the Board with an overview of La Ballona's Mask Making Arts Program which focused on a variety of world cultures.

Board members thanked the presenters and spoke about the educational benefits of the mask program and how it is linked with the performing arts.

10.3 Recognition of HOK Architectural Firm

Ms. Patty Krause, Development Coordinator for the Culver City Education Foundation, gave an acknowledgment and introduced representatives from HOK Architectural Firm. The firm designed and donated the materials and labor for the La Ballona playground revitalization project. Brett Shwery provided a slide show that illustrated the revitalization process at La Ballona which included a new soccer field, a hand-painted world map, and lush greenery of drought tolerant plants. The Board presented HOK Architectural Firm with a commendation.

11. Public Recognition

11.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Coté reported on anticipating current budget information from Sacramento, and gave an update on the annual Informational Budget Meeting with the CCFT Negotiating Team to discuss the District's budget numbers. Dr. Coté commented on her attendance at an Education Law Conference in Cerritos with Ms. Jaffe and gave information on some of the topics that were discussed. She also announced that Culver City Middle School was featured as radio station K-Earth's "Office of the Day", and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports

Ms. Laura gave an update on the assessment program Galileo and what reports will be focused on.

Mr. El Fattal provided budget updates; he gave an update on the District's participation in the California Shake-Out Drill; and reported that the City Council appeal regarding the development at 4043 Irving Place was postponed.

Mrs. Jaffe explained the process of developing the school calendar and reported that the Calendar Committee has met. A calendar survey is available online to get responses from staff and parents. Mrs. Jaffe thanked Ms. Kelly Tarvyd for implementing the survey online.

11.3 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Mr. Jerry Chabola extended an invitation to the playoff game against Downey High School; and gave updates on boys' and girls' cross country teams participating in the CIF and finishing in a team position; the girl's volleyball team finishing 2nd in the league; and the girl's tennis team qualifications. All of our

sports did extremely well in the fall; and the water polo team is doing extremely well. The winter sports are up and running.

11.4 Student Representatives' Reports

Middle School Student Representative

Sibyl Courey, Culver City Middle School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver City Middle School, including an update on the Halloween Dance and other Halloween activities; a Thanksgiving lunch time contest; the success of the PTSA Magazine Drive; the Limo Lunch; and the Helping Hands Panther Club collecting unwrapped toys for needy children.

Culver Park Student Representative

Emily Gomez, Culver Park High School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including the Real World and Empowerment Group programs; the International Feast; the beginning of the toy and can drive; the beginning of the recycling project; L.A. Trade Tech visiting Culver Park; and the Logo Contest that will begin on December 3, 2008. Miss Gomez also read a letter from the students and staff at Culver Park to the Board.

Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member

Opal Dillard, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including Homecoming Activities and how there was a low turn out which left a large debt; the school needing funds in order to have Springfest; her discussion with the House of Representatives and other students about the need for additional counselors. Miss Dillard stated that she went to UCLA Graduate School and found counselors that would be would love to work with the District. Miss Dillard further reported on the BSU and LSU assemblies being combined; and expressed her concerns with the District's attendance policy.

11.5 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Zeidman stated that the Board should review the attendance policy; he stated he took the calendar survey as a parent; and he was impressed by Miss Dillard's performance during the half-time show at Homecoming.
- Mrs. Davis welcomed Student Board Representative Miss Courey. Mrs. Davis extended an invitation to a Job Faire at Vets Auditorium and stated her regrets that she would be unable to make the upcoming game on Friday. She extended thanks to Ms. Laura for the update on Galileo; and agreed that the Board should review the attendance policy. Ms. Davis also extended congratulations to all of the sports teams on their accomplishments, and she informed the Board that LACOE requested that the District participate in their fashion show.
- Dr. Beagles-Roos thanked the student representatives for attending the meeting and giving their reports. She also was in agreement to review the attendance policy which made a consensus. Dr. Beagles-Roos commented on how the level of enthusiasm has changed at the football games with people singing and dancing in the bleachers and thought that the cheerleaders were also doing a great job. She stated that the High School Newspaper just keeps getting better. She commented on an advisory she received from a legal firm regarding regulations for charter schools and their recommendations for governing Boards; and she stated that CCEF was working hard and working well and funded about half of the grants that were submitted to them and donations that they made for funding for the schools.
- Dr. Russell commented that his office has been Office of the Day; an article that he saw regarding a High School being sued by the ACLU in regards to their newspaper; he inquired as when the ASB goes into debt, who secures the debt if the funds are not raised; he also stated that in regards to the attendance policy he would imagine that whether a student is away for college interviews or attending work the District does not receive ADA. He stated he wanted to clarify that a student having to work is not any less important than a student that has to attend a college interview. Not all students are able to attend college because they have to help the family out by working.

12. Information Items**12.1 Enrollment Report**

Mr. El Fattal presented the enrollment report to the Board. Mr. Zeidman inquired as to if the District was still in declining enrollment. Mr. El Fattal responded that the District's numbers are still declining.

12.2 Anti-Bullying Task Force Update

Ms. Laura provided an update on the progress of the Anti-Bullying Task Force. Ms. Kay Plush and Mrs. Sara Fields who are co-chairs of the Task Force assisted in the presentation on bullying among youth. Ms. Tia Chu who is also a member inquired as to how far the District was going to assess, and if there would be a review of the discipline system. Ms. Laura responded. Mr. Karlo Silbiger commented on discipline in the schools and shared comments on the slides in the presentation. He felt that there needed to be a District-wide shift in the attitude towards bullying and discussed the Save and Civil School Program. He further suggested having students on the Task Force, and thought that it would be a good idea to change the Task Force format from bullying to a general safety-type format. Mr. Zeidman and Mrs. Davis felt that there needed to be an action plan that would start immediately. Miss Dillard commented that she felt the Task Force was a great idea and she's glad that it was created. She also stated that many students feel that they have to "dumb" to be "cool" so as not to be bullied. Dr. Coté thanked Mr. Silbiger for bringing the Safe and Civil Schools Program into the conversation. Dr. Beagles-Roos thanked the presenters and the time involvement for the Task Force members, and talked about the systematic change that will need to take place. Dr. Russell stated that he is encouraged by the recent presidential elections because he thinks that now we will choose intelligence over ignorance. He's also encouraged by the presentation and thinks that the Task Force has intelligent people participating, and that they are moving quickly to make a culture change. Miss Gomez also thanked the District for implementing the Task Force and commented on her experience with her sister being bullied at school. Further discussion ensued as to the students that are being bullied not wanting to discuss the problems with staff.

12.3 First Reading of Revised Board Policy and New Administrative Regulation 0450, Philosophy, Goals, Objectives and Comprehensive Plans – Comprehensive Safety Plan

Dr. Coté presented the revisions to the Board. Board members made suggestions for additional revisions and it was decided to bring the Board Policy and Administrative Regulation for a second reading at the next meeting.

12.4. First Reading of Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 4112.4, Health Examinations

Mrs. Jaffe presented the information to the Board and explained that the Board Policy is now omitted. Mr. Zeidman stated that he had three pages and changes and requested that the information be brought back for another reading. Further discussion ensued. The information will be brought back for another reading at the next meeting.

13. Recess

The Board by consensus decided to forego taking a recess.

14. Action Items**14.1 Superintendent's Items - None****14.2 Education Services Items****14.2a Approval is Recommended for the Stipulated Expulsion of Pupil Services Case #02-08**

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Dr. Beagles-Roos that the Board approve the stipulated expulsion of Case #02-08 until June 2009 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.

14.3 Business Items - None**14.4 Personnel Items – None**

15. Board Business

15.1 Discussion Regarding Nominations for the California State Board Associations Delegate Assembly

Board members decided that they will not be submitting any nominations for the Assembly.

15.2 Discussion of City Council Request for a Youth Advisory Committee Survey

Mr. Karlo Silbiger gave a brief history on trying to get a Youth Advisory Committee assembled. Mr. Jerry Chabola suggested possibly having the survey be online. Pamela Robinson, Manager of Vets Memorial Complex, commented that the City would like to submit the surveys to all students at the Middle and High Schools, but looked for suggestions from the Board on the best way to administer the survey. Mr. Zeidman suggested that the Board might have to review the Board Policy to make sure that there is nothing hindering us from working with the City and no conflicts. He also wanted to know if it would apply to students that attend the schools, but do not live in Culver City. Ms. Robinson responded yes, and she confirmed that there are no financial ramifications for the District in administering the survey. Ms. Jody Reichel suggested having the survey on Culver Currents.

16. Public Recognition - Continued

16.1 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Mr. George Laase commented that it was good to see the Board trying to show transparency, but he would like to see a Board Policy mandating Board transparency.
- Mrs. Janet Chabola commented that the Board should take more time to recognize the businesses that support the District. She stated that with the budget challenges in the District she has noticed that people have been added to the payroll and hours have been extended. She asked the Board to also recognize the importance of teachers that are being bullied by parents in the District, and pointed out that Board Policy 4355 regarding health benefits was last updated in 1981 and suggested that the Board pull out all policies that have not been updated since approximately 1995 for review.

16.2 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Dr. Beagles-Roos commented that she is sorry the City Liaison meeting was postponed; and the Friends of the Culver City Youth Health Center’s Annual Fundraiser taking place on the same night as the Board meeting.
- Dr. Russell confirmed there being a Special Board Meeting on December 2, 2008.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Zeidman, seconded by Mrs. Davis and approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays to adjourn the meeting. Board President Dr. Russell adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary