

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

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b><u>Regular Meeting</u></b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b><u>January 13, 2009</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**

**Jessica Beagles-Roos, Ph.D., President**  
**Saundra Davis, M.A., Vice President**  
**Steven Gourley, Clerk**  
**Scott Zeidman, Esq., Member**  
**Dana Russell, D.D.S., 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. Beagles-Roos 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. Ms. Lynn Bronstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Report from Closed Session**

Dr. Beagles-Roos 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 (CCFT) Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal for School Year 2008-2009**

Dr. Beagles-Roos opened the public hearing at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Karlos Silbiger commented that the District should research the salaries for personnel in other districts; he noticed that the administrators do not have a contract on the agenda, and felt that cuts should also be given to the administrators; and he stated that he was happy to see preparation time for elementary schools in the proposal. Mr. Mielke thanked Mr. Silbiger for attending the meeting and paying attention to the proposal. Mr. Mielke commented that the CCFT proposal was submitted in October which was prior to the financial crisis that the District is currently in. He requested the Board uses this crisis as a time to prioritize. He reminded the Board that the Union agreed to a one percent raise last year, but did not realize that other districts were given a higher raise. He also reminded the Board that three years ago the paradigm was broken when the Board approved the salary adjustment for MACCS members. Mr. Alan Elmont commented that if there was any way that the teachers could receive a raise then it should be done. Mr. Elmont commented as a reminder that the ability to provide raises is tied to how many employees are laid off. He also wanted to remind the public that employees also get automatic step and column increases. So whether or not they receive a salary raise they will receive an increase the step and column process. George Laase disagreed with Mr. Mielke's statement and stated that there should be a negative sign in front of the 4 percent that Mr. Mielke proposed as a salary increase for the teachers. Mr. Laase stated that in 1992 he recalled a 10 percent cut. Dr. Beagles-Roos closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

**7.2 Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal for Culver City Federation of Teachers (CCFT) for School Year 2008-2009**

Dr. Beagles-Roos opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Mielke wanted to point out the contrasts in the proposals. He stated that CCFT's proposal was very specific, and the District's proposal was vague. He feels it is better for the public if the District is more specific so that they can be fully informed. Mr. Alan Elmont stated he agreed with Mr. Mielke. He commented that the District's proposal is more of a list of talking points and not a detailed proposal. As a community member he feels it would be better if the proposal were a little more detailed so that the community could also weigh in. Dr. Beagles-Roos closed the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

**7.3 Association of Classified Employees (ACE) Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal for School Year 2008-2009**

Dr. Beagles-Roos opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m. There being no comments from the audience, Dr. Beagles-Roos closed the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

**7.4 Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal for the Association of Classified Employees (ACE) for School Year 2008-2009**

Dr. Beagles-Roos opened the public hearing at 7:22 p.m. There being no comments from the audience, Dr. Beagles-Roos closed the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

**8. Adoption of Agenda**

It was moved by Mr. Ziedman to adopt the agenda of January 13, 2009 with the revision of moving item 10.1 up on the agenda. Dr. Beagles-Roos pulled item number 14.4e. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gourley. The motion was unanimously approved to adopt the agenda as revised.

**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 January. The recipients were Evelyn "Eva" Clubb from El Marino School; Mayda Yohannes from El Rincon Elementary; Kristina Bruce from La Ballona School; Kiarra Mueller from Linwood E. Howe School; Abigail Kim from Farragut School; Maria Lopez from Culver City Middle School; Elizabeth Haro from Culver Park High School; and Tanya Sowmendran from Culver City High School. Mrs. Davis and Mr. Zeidman presented each recipient with a pin and certificate; and thanked the students and their families for attending the meeting.

**9. Consent Agenda**

Dr. Beagles-Roos 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. It was moved by Dr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Zeidman to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1, and 9.3-9.6 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

9.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting – December 9, 2008

9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations

9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 9

9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 9

9.6 Request for Exemption from the Post Retirement Earnings Limitation

**9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders**

Mr. Laase commented that there was still a lack of transparency regarding Board member's expenditures. He felt the chart used was too elaborate and suggested simplifying the information. Mrs. Davis inquired as to P.O. number 52486. Ms. Laura responded the item was for books purchased at a conference attended by Mrs. Lockhart. Mrs. Davis also inquired about P.O. number 52508 that had two departments listed. Mr. El Fattal responded that it was for a copier purchased for the Special Projects Department. It was moved by Mr. Zeidman moved that the Board approve purchase orders from December 1, 2008 through January 2, 2009 as presented. Regarding Mr. Laase's comments, Mr. Gourley stated that he does not see how much clearer the chart could be done. Mrs. Davis commented that she thought the disclosure was very comprehensive, and she did not think that the insurance carrier that a Board member is using should matter. Mr. Gourley seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations****10.2 AB 1802: Supplemental Counseling Services for Culver City Middle School and Culver City High School – Annual Report**

Middle school counselor Kate Griffin, and high school counselor Lisa Cooper discussed the AB 1802 intervention programs at each school. They also discussed the different ways that the schools are identifying high risk students. Board members thanked the presenters.

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

Dr. Coté wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated she hoped everyone had an enjoyable holiday. Dr. Coté reported on the December 29<sup>th</sup> press conference held at the Middle School by State Superintendent Jack O'Connell. She reported on Culver City Middle School and El Marino hosting visitors from other school districts who selected these two schools due to their outstanding reputations and excellent programs. Dr. Coté also reported on her attendance at a seminar at the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and a workshop sponsored by School Services regarding the Governor's budget proposal.

**11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports**

Ms. Laura reported on the Anti-Bullying Task Force meeting where a recommendation was made to give the Oliveus survey to grades 3-12 before putting into place any type of curriculum. A grant will be submitted to the Education Foundation to cover the costs. She reported on the students participating in benchmark testing for the second week. January 26<sup>th</sup> is a Pupil Free Day and Ms. Laura informed the Board which professional development activities will be taking place as the District continues the theme of "Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement."

Mr. El Fattal reported that the Security Supervisor had his first full day of employment with the District, and he will be invited to the next meeting for the Board to be introduced.

Mrs. Jaffe reported on her attendance at Culver City Middle School when the visitors from other districts were present. She shared some of her conversation with a few of the principals that were visiting, and announced that the Middle School is up for redesignation as a School to Watch.

**11.3 Members of the Audience**

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Suzannah Benton commented on the District providing more support for students to get work permit.
- Bill Wynn who was representing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee announced activities that will be taking place in Culver City on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and encouraged the Board and community members to attend.
- Ryan Cho, a high school student, provided that Board with documents regarding testing for students on advanced placement exams. He further commented on the policy of having all students take the advanced placement exams. Mr. Zeidman requested to agendize this topic. Dr. Coté commented that it was going to be on the agenda for January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Karlo Silbiger commented on the City searching for students that would like to be involved with City Council and provided information on the survey that is available online. He extended an invitation to a Democratic Club Meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>, and he agreed with Mr. Cho's comments stating that the policy regarding AP exams sounded ridiculous and the test should not have an effect on the student's GPA.
- Conner Nannini commented on the policy regarding AP exams and felt that there should not be a rule of taking the test. A student's grades should be what matters.
- James Alamillo informed the Board that a Booster Club has been established at Linwood E. Howe Elementary School.
- David Mielke felt the students spoke eloquently and extended his congratulations to Tanya Sowmendran for receiving a Citizenship Award. He wanted to publicly thank Mrs. Jaffe for the work she did last year handling the layoffs. He commented on items that he felt should be addressed when discussing the District's budget; and he addressed the Superintendent receiving an increase in her mileage allowance. He suggested that the adjustment was three times what the teachers received.

**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 the students that were seated in Student Council as President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Miss Courey won the position of President. She also reported on the Winter Dance being well attended; the upcoming Valentine's Day Dance and Valentine O'grams; she gave an update on Pennies for Patients; she discussed the problems with attendance at the Student Council Meetings and ideas to boost attendance; and informed the Board of student requests to have a Global Awareness Day on campus. She also commented that she felt Student Council should have a mission statement.

**Culver Park Student Representative**

Emily Gomez, Culver Park High School Student Representative, was not present.

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

Opal Dillard, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including ASB being restructured and broken into committees to handle different issues around campus. One committee is a Big Brother/Sister Committee that works with the students with disabilities. She announced that one of the students, John, was going to be on Access Hollywood. Another student is getting focus groups established. Miss Dillard suggested that students should have a financial literacy and computer literacy class in order to graduate. She also suggested that a magazine, Celebrity High, be distributed as an insert with the High School's regular publication. Miss Dillard also apologized for missing the last meeting which was due to her trying out for musical. Dr. Beagles-Roos asked if she thought that students would attend a financial/computer literacy class if it was outside of the school day. Miss Dillard said yes.

**11.4 Members of the Board**

Board Members spoke about:

- Dr. Russell wished everyone a Happy New Year. He requested to adjourn the meeting in memory of Toby Rubinstein. Mr. Gourley seconded. He also discussed the different ways that the AP exams could be looked at and stated that they are great classes, but it is a philosophical topic. He inquired as to when the District will be able to take payments on the website; and he wanted to point out that the Superintendent did not receive a raise when all other employees received one.
- Mr. Gourley commented that he was happy to see audience members still present at the meeting; and welcomed Miss Dillard back.
- Mrs. Davis congratulated Miss Courey on her win as president of Student Council. Mrs. Davis stated that past history has been a "me too" clause for employee raises, but this was not done for the Superintendent so to be fair a mileage raise was given. She also wanted to clarify that she did not vote for the salary increase to MACCS employees a couple of years ago. Mrs. Davis stated she was happy to see the Athletics program in the paper; and commended Ms. Laura and Dr. Coté on handling parent complaints. She also commented that she was happy to hear that the Middle School was up for redesignation as a School to Watch, and commended Mrs. Jaffe for all the hard work she did at the school which built a great foundation for the future.
- Mr. Zeidman thanked students Ryan and Connor for speaking at the meeting. He reported on his attendance at a Booster Club meeting where Mike Eskridge provided incorrect information on administrators receiving a raise. He clarified that the District no longer had a Director of Security position as stated on information handed out by Mr. Mielke. He reported his attendance at the City Council meeting where AVPA was recognized and wondered why the District has not done the same. He said the Board should be recognizing all of the outstanding scholars, teams, and clubs in the District. He extended congratulations to Miss Dillard and Miss Courey; and commended Mrs. Jaffe and Mr. El Fattal for all of their hard work. He would also like to take a look at going back to K-6 and asked for a consensus. Mrs. Davis and Mr. Gourley were in agreement. He also gave a reminder of the annual Casino Night.
- Dr. Beagles-Roos extended a Happy New Year to everyone, and congratulated Miss Dillard and Miss Courey for their recent accomplishments. She agreed to adjourn the meeting in memory of Toby

Rubenstein, and included the spouse of Maggie Marquez, Estelle Mendelsohn, and Gene Mills. She commented on the state budget and acknowledged that it will be a hard year for high school seniors applying for financial assistance for college. Dr. Beagles-Roos announced the fundraiser for the Youth Health Center on February 8<sup>th</sup>; and announced that nominations are being taken for Teacher and Classified Employee of the year for the Education Foundation's Tribute to the Stars. She thanked staff for the book received; and she also commended Mrs. Ecker for information that she put together for the Board regarding the 1994 Mandate Reimbursement.

## **12. Information Items**

### **12.1 First Reading of New Board Policy 5137, Positive School Climate**

Ms. Laura presented the Policy to the Board. Mr. Andrew Sotelo was present to respond to any questions. Mr. Jerry Chabola commented on one main problem he found with the policies which was being able to identify students in order to be able to deal with the students effectively. He suggested having a picture identification badge. Dr. Russell agreed to the idea and wondered if there was any reason why it could not be implemented. Mr. Chabola said that the previous Superintendent thought it would be too impersonal. Miss Dillard spoke on behalf of the students and thought the idea was going overboard. Further discussion ensued. Dr. Beagles-Roos asked staff to bring back additional information on the idea of mandating students to wear picture identification because this was not part of the policy being discussed. Mr. Chabola stated that in the past there was a mentoring program with community members, and the concern would be how to get community members involved again. The Policy will be brought back for a second reading.

### **12.2 Update on Governor's Proposed 2009-10 State Budget**

Mr. El Fattal provided the Board with information regarding the State budget. Mr. Elmont inquired as to if GASB 45 was mentioned at the workshop that Mr. El Fattal attended. He responded yes and the District has a liability of approximately 11.5 million for retiree benefits. Jodi Reichel inquired as to what the parents can do to assist the District, and could the funds for the natatorium be used? Mr. El Fattal responded yes. Further discussion ensued. Casey Chabola stated his concerns about class size reduction. Mr. El Fattal recommended that the Board move quickly with budget cuts as the process unfolds.

## **13. Recess**

The Board recessed at 9:45 p.m. and reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

## **14. Action Items**

### **14.1 Superintendent's Items - None**

### **14.2 Education Services Items**

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

It was moved by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Zeidman that the Board approve the Valenzuela/CAHSEE Lawsuit Settlement Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints for the period of October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 Ayes and 1 Nay vote from Mr. Gourley.

#### **14.2b Approval is Recommended for the Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation, 1250 – Community Relations, Visitors**

It was moved by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Zeidman to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Revised Board Policy/Administrative Regulation, 1250 – Community Relations, Visitors. Mr. Zeidman stated that he appreciated the work that had been done on the policy, but he still disagreed with using the word visitors. He cited Penal Codes and suggested revisions. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Zeidman stated that he would like to withdraw this item until CSBA could be contacted to find out about the Penal Codes that they are citing. Mrs. Davis withdrew the original motion and Mr. Zeidman seconded.

**14.2c Approval is Recommended for the HeART Project at Culver Park Continuation High School, April 2009 through June 2009**

It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Mrs. Davis that the Board approve the HeART Project at Culver Park Continuation High School, April 2009 through June 2009 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.2d Approval is Recommended for the Music Center Skirball Artist-Teacher Partnership Program**

It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Mrs. Davis that the Board approve the Music Center Skirball-Teacher Partnership Program as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.3 Business Items****14.3a Approval is Recommended for Rejection of Claim**

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Dr. Russell that the Board authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services to reject the claim for damages related to File 09-0113DE as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4 Personnel Items****14.4a Approval is Recommended for the Adoption of Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal for Culver City Federation of Teachers (CCFT) for School Year 2008-2009**

It was moved by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Dr. Russell that the Board adopt the Culver City Unified School District's Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal for the Culver City Federation of Teachers for School Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4b Approval is Recommended for the Adoption of Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal for Association of Classified Employees (ACE) for School Year 2008-2009**

It was moved by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Zeidman that the Board adopt the Culver City Unified School District's Initial Collective Bargaining Proposal for the Association of Classified Employees School Year 2008-2009 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4c Third Reading and Adoption of Revised Administrative Regulation 4112.4, Health Examinations**

It was moved by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board deletes the Board Policy and adopts Revised Administrative Regulation 4112.3, Health Examinations as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4d Approval is Recommended for Resolution #6-2008/2009, Catastrophic Leave for Classified Employee (Clerk Typist II)**

It was moved by Mrs. Davis and seconded by Dr. Russell that the Board approve Resolution #6-2008/2009 for a Catastrophic Leave for a Classified Employee as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**15. Board Business****15.1 Discussion Regarding the December Meeting of the CCUSD/City Council Liaison Committee**

Dr. Beagles-Roos stated that Mr. Gourley was unable to attend the meeting and that she had been in attendance as an alternate. Mr. Zeidman and Dr. Beagles-Roos informed the Board of the discussions at the Committee Meeting which included traffic issues, green buildings, joint-use issues, and working with the City in getting information out to the students. Mr. Laase suggested the City's housing standards as a future Liaison Committee agenda item. Further discussion ensued.

**16. Public Recognition – Continued****16.1 Members of the Audience**

There were no comments from audience members.

**16.2 Members of the Board**

Members of the Board spoke about:

- Mr. Zeidman requested staff to look into being able to take credit cards at the Office of Child Development. He also asked for two other votes in agreement to see what other groups the Board could honor at future meetings. A consensus was made by Mr. Gourley and Dr. Russell.
- Mrs. Davis stated that she had received an invitation to speak in Sacramento, but found out too late to get agendized. Mr. Gourley moved to agendize a retroactive reimbursement. Mr. Zeidman seconded.
- Dr. Russell commented on an editorial that he read in the L.A. Times where they suggested that the State eliminate income tax for teachers.
- Dr. Beagles-Roos confirmed that there will be a Special Board Meeting on February 3, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., and was in agreement to recognize special groups at the schools. She suggested a discussion on the budget at the upcoming meeting. Dr. Russell said that he would like the discussion to be more philosophical.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Zeidman, seconded by Dr. Russell and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Dr. Beagles-Roos adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m. in memory of Toby Rubenstein, Estelle Mendelsohn, Gene Mills, and Mr. Marquez.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary