

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

Meeting:	<u>Special Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>March 3, 2009</u>
Place:	<u>Linwood E. Howe Elementary</u> <u>4100 Irving Place</u> <u>Culver City 90232</u>	Time:	<u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u> <u>6:01 p.m. – Closed Session</u> <u>7:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u>

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. Mrs. Michael Laase 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. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Russell and seconded by Mrs. Davis that the March 3, 2009 agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Beagles-Roos announced how the meeting would proceed regarding the presentations and taking the Speaker Cards. She introduced Mrs. Leslie Lockhart, Director of Special Projects, who presented information on categorical funding.

Dr. Coté provided an update on the budget process at the state level, and briefly talked about the dysfunctional way that the state looks at education as a whole. Mrs. Jaffe reiterated that the Board previously took action to release employees and passed the respective Resolutions. Mrs. Jaffe explained the next steps to continue the process of releasing employees, and she gave the number of employees that are resigning or retiring. Mrs. Laura presented information on the categorical grants and the tiers that make up the categorical funding. Mrs. Lockhart provided additional information on the tier system. Mr. El Fattal gave a brief presentation that provided an update on the state budget and the impact on the District. Mr. El Fattal reported that the next steps in the process will be a presentation of the Second Interim and the March 15th notices. He then went over any changes that were made to cut list. Further discussion ensued.

8. Action Items

Business Items

8.1 Approval is Recommended for the 2009-2010 Expenditure Reductions

Dr. Beagles-Roos started calling speakers from the audience. Audience members commented on the following:

- Roger Maxwell commented that the Board did not need to vote at the current meeting, and that many districts were not voting until the following week. He also spoke about the economic crises and asked Dr. Coté to take a five percent cut in salary.
- David Mielke commented that the current financial crisis is an opportunity for the District to prioritize. He commented on the cutting process being flawed and stated that CBAC did not get to rank the

administrative staff. He stated that everyone in the District needs to “feel the pain”, and that the teachers took their pay cut last year when they accepted a sub-par increase in pay. He also spoke against raising class sizes.

- Karlo Silbiger agreed with Mr. Mielke that the cutting process is flawed. He made several comments which included that he thinks that CBAC is a great committee, but that there needs to be students participating on the committee; that the committee can only be effective if the participants receive full information; and that it is almost impossible for the community to participate in the discussions when the cut list is not given out until the meeting. Mr. Silbiger spoke against having only two administrators on the list; and he felt that a class size increase would be detrimental to the students.
- Audrey Stephens commented on the duties of the Director of Special Projects in handling the categorical funding, and how the position works with the Educational Services Department.
- Lloyd Dixon commented on the AP classes and the notification to parents regarding sign-up for these courses.
- Jamie Wallace urged the Board not to increase class sizes at the middle school and high school. Ms. Wallace inquired if the Board had enough information to make decisions on the cuts.
- Jerry Chabola stated that in this crisis it’s all about the kids, and encouraged the Board to do a teachers cost benefit analysis. He stressed the importance of athletics in the students’ lives, and spoke about the coaches helping the students academically.
- Christopher Knight commented that he thinks the Board speaks in half truths. He discussed the proposed budget cuts for the security department, and feels the Culver City Police Department will tire quickly of covering the issues at the school sites if a school security guard is removed.
- Jose Montero commented on all cuts affecting the quality of education; and discussed class size.
- Gianna Gray stated her concerns on possibly increasing class size at the middle school and high school.
- Robert Gray acknowledged what a brutal process the budget cuts are for everyone. He commented on how he would like to raise money for the District, and he disagreed on the way the list was presented. Mr. Gray encouraged the Board to vote no on increasing class size.
- Sandi Levin commented on the unreasonable demands of the state and urged the Board not to vote on the reductions if they do not have enough information. Ms. Levin also requested that the line items be unbundled, and requested that the Board not increase class size.
- Jeanette James commented against increasing class size at any of the schools.
- Jackie Lee spoke in advocacy for the classified personnel and stressed the importance of these employees in the District.
- Sarah Delaney commented that increasing class size should be taken off the table.
- Susanne Robins stated her concerns about increasing class size and reducing teachers; and how those two items together would affect the special education students.
- Lisa Michel commented on Galileo and the need for the TOSAs as support for the program.
- Janet Chabola stated that she was upset with the change in format to the reduction list, and that she was crushed that the CBAC recommendations were not included. She commented that she has not heard anyone stating that they will put in lobbying efforts, and she spoke about the educational aides.
- Debbie Hamme commented against an increase in class size and how important the instructional assistants are. Mrs. Hamme also spoke about how important support staff is to the District, and stated that the District cannot keep consultant positions to the detriment of classified positions.
- Francis Thaler spoke against class sizes increasing, and asked how are we going to raise funds for the District?
- Katherine Maxwell requested that the Board not increase class size, and asked them to invest in the students.
- Tracey Burns spoke against any class size increases.
- Mike King commented on raising funds for the District and suggested asking parents for a ten dollar per student fee.
- Todd Johnson commented against increasing class size. Mr. Johnson also commented about the inefficiency he sees in the classrooms that he has volunteered in.

- Mr. Zeidman read a letter from Sandra Anderson which was written on behalf of the aides and asked the Board to consider the role of aides in the District.

9. Recess

The Board recessed at 8:40 p.m. and reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

Dr. Beagles-Roos read a statement from Erin Gelfat regarding AP classes.

Mr. Zeidman stated that he had just received the reduction list along with the job description right before the meeting and that he was not prepared to vote. He further commented that he had no intention of voting on the new list, and he that would vote no on all personnel matters. Mr. Zeidman recommended the District looking at Mr. King’s suggestion of asking parents to give ten dollars per child in the District. Regarding class size, Mr. Zeidman felt that it needs to be increased in elementary; and he stated that teachers most likely would not see a raise this year.

Mr. Gourley stated that he admired Mr. Zeidman’s fortitude and felt that it was a tragedy that the information regarding the cuts was not received in a timely fashion. Mr. Gourley again requested an organizational chart of the District. He commented on taking these cuts to the state and the federal government, and stated that it was sad that there was not a big community turnout to vote. He stated that Proposition 13 needs to be cut and Serrano v. Priest needs to be reversed.

Dr. Russell asked if the Board does not vote until the March 10th meeting how will it affect the District. Mr. El Fattal responded, and stated that the previous action from the previous week covers the March 15th notices. Dr. Russell thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and sharing their thoughts. In response to calls for management to take a salary reduction, Dr. Russell stated that he thinks that everyone should participate if there was a salary reduction and not just management.

Mrs. Davis stated she was in agreement with Dr. Russell on tiered cuts across the board rather than have employees lose their jobs. She stated that it was unfortunate that information regarding the cuts was only received before the meeting. Mrs. Davis agreed to postpone the vote on reductions.

Dr. Beagles-Roos stated that every year schools districts have to have a budget by a certain time. She asked if the Board agreed to vote on non-personnel items.

Dr. Coté suggested voting on all items at the same meeting. It was moved by Dr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Zeidman to table the expenditure reductions until the March 10, 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Further discussion ensued as to what ways the expenditure list could be presented so that it was understood by everyone.

Board members thanked staff for all of their hard work in bringing the information forward, and thanked audience members for attending the meeting.

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 11:00 p.m.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary