

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

Meeting:	<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>May 26, 2009</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

Jessica Beagles-Roos, Ph.D., 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 three Board members in attendance. Mrs. Davis was absent. Mr. Gourley joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Miss Sibyl Courey 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.

8. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Dr. Russell to adopt the May 26, 2009 agenda as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

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. No items were withdrawn. It was moved by Dr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Zeidman to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1 through 9.9 as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

- 9.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 12, 2009
- 9.2 Purchase Orders and Warrants
- 9.3 Acceptance of Gifts - Donations
- 9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 17
- 9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 17
- 9.6 Adoption of the Los Angeles County Plan for Expelled Pupils Triennial Update
- 9.7 CCHS Teacher Kristine Hatanaka to Attend the Art 21 Educators' Conference in New York, NY, July 14-21, 2009
- 9.8 2009 CAHSEE Waiver Requests for Non Public School Students Who Have Individual Education Plans or Section 504 Plans
- 9.9 2009-2010 Designation of CIF Representatives to the Ocean League

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 May. The recipients were Taylor Miyamoto-Kim from El Marino School; Michelle Hernandez from El Rincon Elementary; Christian Mares from La Ballona School; Georgia Wehbi from Linwood E. Howe School; Darya Treanor from Farragut School; Briell Huerta from Culver City Middle School; Jessica Peralta from Culver Park High School; and Greco Ancona 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.

11. Public Recognition

11.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Coté reported a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts was awarded to the Music Center to support their partnership with the District for the 2009-2010 school year. The award was one of the largest grant awards in the arts learning category with only three agencies in the nation receiving larger awards. Dr. Coté reported on her attendance at the CSBA Superintendents' Advisory group meeting in Sacramento where there was only bad news given by the speakers. Dr. Coté addressed the barrage of e-mails she has received targeting the administrative employees of the District.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Report

Ms. Laura reported that there was a great response to the invitation to attend summer school, and she gave an update on the summer school activities. Ms. Laura addressed the expenditure reductions made to Special Education made on March 10, 2009. All categorical programs made cuts in an attempt to balance the budget. Personnel costs make up approximately eighty-five percent of the Special Education budget. Although the District is mandated to provide instructional assistant support to eighty percent of the Resource teachers, the District has made every effort to provide classroom support to all Resource teachers. Some positions were eliminated based on the projected number of special education students next year. Some positions currently vacant were eliminated. All teachers have assistant time of at least 3.9 hours daily. Of the special education instructional assistants three positions were eliminated; three vacant positions were eliminated; and nine positions were reduced in hours. Ms. Laura stated that eighty-eight percent of the special education instructional assistants remain. No one-on-one instructional assistants were eliminated; and thirty-five one-on-one instructional assistants remain. Ms. Laura also reported on her attendance at AVPA's JAVA Fundraiser.

Mr. El Fattal reported on the first Parcel Tax Core Team Meeting and stated the second meeting would be taking place the following day. Mr. El Fattal gave an update on the recent CBAC meeting; and provided a budget update which included May Revise information.

Mrs. Jaffe expressed what a pleasure it was to sit in on the first round of BTSA interviews, and gave a brief update.

11.3 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Audrey Stephens briefly spoke about her history with the District, and how staff, parents, and the community used to work together. Mrs. Stephens then addressed the e-mails that have called for management to take a pay cut.
- Pam Magee, Principal at Culver City High School, commented on the community coming together to help the District. She spoke about the Empower our Schools Campaign; and emphasized that the District needs to work together as a whole. Mrs. Magee felt that requesting management employees to take a pay cut would not solve the District's budget issues.
- Kristin Davis, 9th grade student, spoke against cutting any Special Education aides.
- Troy Stephenson, 11th grade student, spoke against cutting any Special Education aides and teachers.
- Thavory Heuveline, high school student, spoke against cutting Special Education instructional aides.
- Lanaya Ambers, high school student, spoke against cutting Special Education instructional aides.
- Abel Navar spoke against cutting the aides and asked the Board to not prey on the weak.
- Lizette Hernandez, 11th grade student, spoke against cutting the Special Education aides or reducing their hours.
- Diane Kaiser commented that the Board could see how important education was to all of the speakers this evening.
- Janet Chabola spoke against cutting the management salaries. She commented on all the extra hours that administrators put in during their work days throughout the year.

- George Laase provided copies to the Board of a chart, as an example, of how he feels the District should show the Board member health and welfare benefits.
- David Mielke stated that it was moving to hear from students in the Special Education Program. He provided hand-outs to the Board showing the revised proposal from CCFT. Mr. Mielke gave a brief explanation of the proposal. He told the Board that teachers still want to know how the Board can maintain their own benefits when they are not employees, and they also question why the Board is still approving car allowances.
- Karlo Silbiger commented that with every cut the Board has to think about how it affects the students. Mr. Silbiger stated he was unaware about the negative e-mails being sent to administrators, and he does not think it is fair to ask administrators to take a pay cut. He felt that the perception in the community is that there is inequality in staff benefits since all employees do not receive the same benefits or perks.

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 pictures being taken for the eighth graders; the eighth grade Grad Night and Awards Night; rehearsals taking place for the upcoming Variety Show; a Speech Contest; the upcoming student versus teachers basketball game; the middle school's participation in the Relay for Life; the upcoming Earth Day events; and the creation of the students' transition notebooks.

Culver Park Student Representative

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

Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member

Opal Dillard, Student Board Member, was not present.

11.5 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Gourley commented that the middle school representative, Sibyl Courey, has become an excellent speaker during her tenure with the Board. Mr. Gourley explained his tardiness and apologized for being late.
- Dr. Russell stated that he has not seen all of the negative e-mails sent by community members, but he has seen a few and stated that they have become hurtful. Dr. Russell commended Mrs. Leslie Lockhart, Director of Special Projects, on the letter she sent to the Board where she commented on the history of the District and community working together as one. He requested a follow up on the advance placement exams; an update on the plans for K-3 class size; and he stated he was curious about the Governor's proposal to cut the school year by seven days.
- Mr. Zeidman thanked everyone for coming to meeting, and reported on his attendance at the parcel tax meeting. He commented on his attempts to contact the new Senator representing the City of Culver City, Curren Price.
- Dr. Beagles-Roos commented that maybe all staff needs to be wearing their CCUSD Family of School t-shirts to attempt to start working together. She reported that the Farragut Elementary Open House was very successful as was AVPA's JAVA Fundraiser. Dr. Beagles-Roos suggested scheduling a Special Meeting on June 30th. Mr. Gourley asked for a two-minute recess while several audience members left the room. Dr. Russell asked if June 29th would be possible. Dr. Beagles-Roos stated that the Special Meeting can be discussed further later in the meeting.

12.1 Information Items

12.1 Enrollment Report

Mr. El Fattal presented the report to the Board.

12.2 First Reading of Revised Board Policy 5144.1, Students – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Ms. Laura presented the policy to the Board. Karlo Silbiger apologized for not being able to review the revised version. He stated that the hardest process is to remediate students that do not want to be at school. Mr. Silbiger suggested that parent shadowing is very effective. Mr. Silbiger, under the impression that Board members were no longer involved in the expulsion process, felt Board members should be involved in the expulsion process. His understanding was that it was very effective when members were involved. Janet Chabola inquired about a section of the policy. Mr. Gourley inquired if there was any intent of taking away Board review in the expulsion process. Dr. Coté confirmed that there was no intent. Dr. Russell clarified that Board members used to sit in on the hearing, but it was problematic due to scheduling problems among other issues. Dr. Beagles-Roos stated when Board members were conducting the hearings it became difficult with members who had parents lobbying for them. She thinks that the revised section is much better, and gave additional suggestions for revisions.

12.3 First Reading of New Board Policy 5141.33, Students – Head Lice

Ms. Laura presented the policy to the Board. Dave Mielke stated that a grievance was filed on this matter and he was happy to see a policy being introduced in the District. Mr. Mielke inquired as to what actions will take place between the time the policy is introduced and when it is adopted. Mrs. Ecker stated that the students will continue to go home if they are found to have nits and/or lice. She emphasized that they are not a health hazard. George Laase asked if there was a nurse at each site. Mrs. Ecker stated there are three nurses that travel around the district and there are also site designees. Further discussion ensued. Gary Abrams, a school volunteer, was in agreement that a student with nits should also be sent home.

13. Recess

Board members agreed to bypass a recess.

14. Action Items**14.1 Superintendent's Items****14.1a Approval is Recommended for Resolution #33-2008/2009, Candidate Statement for November 3, 2009 Governing Board Elections**

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Dr. Russell that the Board approve Resolution #33-2008/2009 Board of Education Candidate's Statement Resolution as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 4 – Ayes and 0 – Nays.

14.2 Education Services Items**14.2a Approval is Recommended for Expulsion of Pupil Services Case #07-09**

It was moved by Dr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Zeidman that the Board approve the recommendation of Pupil Services Case #07-09 as presented and that the student be placed in County Community Day School or another school determined by his parents, at parental expense, until June 2009. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes; 0 – Nays; and 1 – Abstention by Mr. Gourley who was not in attendance during Closed Session.

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

It was moved by Dr. Russell and seconded by Mr. Zeidman that the Board authorize the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services to reject the claim for damages related to File 09-72005DP. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes; 0 – Nays; and 1 – Abstention by Mr. Gourley who was not in attendance during Closed Session.

15. Board Business – None

16. Public Recognition – Continued

16.1 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Jerry Chabola requested that the Board adjourn the meeting in memory of Richard Carrillo, and he gave brief history of Mr. Carrillo’s involvement and volunteer work with the athletics department. Mr. Chabola revisited some of the issues that he heard Board members discuss and stated that if the District works as a team the budget crisis can be handled. He stated that everyone should “take the pain” and stop finger pointing. Mr. Chabola requested that the Board recognize the CIF student athletes on June 9th.
- Alan Elmont agreed with comments from Mr. Chabola and stated there are misperceptions out in the community that eventually become their realities. Mr. Elmont commented that most people in the community do not understand the roles and functions of staff in the District, and the public needs an understanding of this information to clear up misperceptions.
- Andrea Bardin-Schainen stated that she does not understand why the District has not grown the language immersion program. She’s grown up in Culver City and wanted to send her child to El Marino but is on a waiting list. Ms. Bardin-Schainen said that she will now send her child out of the District so that she could be in a language immersion program

16.2 Members of the Board

Board members spoke about:

- Mr. Zeidman stated that he is always open to expanding the language immersion programs.
- Dr. Russell responded to Mr. Elmont’s comment on providing more information to the public on staff roles and functions. Dr. Russell suggested having a “Spotlight” section on the agenda for staff.
- Mr. Gourley stated he was interested in growing successful programs. He extended an invitation to a Mock Trial with Mr. Zeidman presiding on May 27th at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- Dr. Beagles-Roos reported on her committee assignments. She stated that DCAT will redefine future plans; the Parcel Tax Core Team will be meeting tomorrow and the polling will be in June; there should be another Special Board Meeting in July; and she complimented the Middle School students for participating in the Relay for Life.

Closed Session

The Board adjourned the regular meeting and resumed Closed Session at 8:40 p.m.

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 9:21 p.m. in memory of Richard Carrillo.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary