

**LA CAÑADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

October 23, 2001

CLOSED SESSION

The Special Closed Session Expulsion Hearing was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by President Barbara Racklin in the La Canad Elementary School Library at 4540 Encinas Drive, La Cañada, California. MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara Racklin, President, Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Vice President, Mr. Will Moffitt and Mrs. Meredith Reynolds, Members.

EXPULSION HEARING for Student Reference #4-00-01

Student Reference #4-00-01 and the student's parents were present. Representing the School District was Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton. Also present was 7-8 Principal Gaylene van Zijll. Mr. Stratton presented the school's case. Mrs. van Zijll explained the circumstances that prompted the action of reinstating the expulsion. The hearing adjourned to Closed Session deliberation at 5:07 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Mrs. Racklin reconvened the meeting to Open Session at 5:15 p.m. Present were the four Board members, and Mr. Stratton. The Governing Board voted unanimously to reinstate the expulsion of *Student Reference #4-00-01*, originally ordered and suspended on April 26, 2001.

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:20 p.m. by President Barbara Racklin on October 23, 2001 in the La Cañada Elementary School Library at 4540 Encinas Drive in La Cañada, California. Present were Board Members Barbara Racklin, Jinny Dalbeck, Will Moffitt and Meredith Reynolds, Interim Superintendent Sue Leabo, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton, and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services John Kramar.

CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:21 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Faculty Lounge. Present were the four Board Members, Interim Superintendent Sue Leabo, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton, and Assistant Superintendent of Business Services John Kramar. Closed Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara Racklin, President
Mrs. Jinny Dalbeck, Vice President
Mr. William Moffitt, Member
Mrs. Meredith Reynolds, Member

REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 6:59 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library. Present were the four Governing Board Members, Dr. Leabo, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Jim Stratton, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services John Kramar,

and Secretary to the Superintendent Judy Mellick. There were approximately 11 people in the audience. Mrs. Racklin asked community member Sue Bicknell to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Racklin reported that no action was taken in Closed Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Racklin stated that the minutes of the September 25, 2001 special meeting and the October 1, 2001 regular meeting of the Governing Board had been distributed to the Governing Board Members in advance for review. The minutes of the September 25, 2001 special meeting and the October 1, 2001 regular meeting were approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Moffitt) to approve the agenda. It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Reynolds) to remove Item 2N from the agenda at staff request. The motion to remove item 2N from the agenda was adopted unanimously. The motion to approve the agenda as amended was adopted unanimously.

SWEARING IN OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Racklin administered the oath of office to Student Representative JoAnn Bicknell.

REPORTS

1. **Superintendent's Report** - Dr. Leabo introduced the members of the Business Department: John Kramar, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Diane Clinton, Director of Fiscal Services, Kim Bergner, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, George Slocum, Account Technician, and Kerry Godinez, Account Technician. Noel Carpenter, Payroll Technician, and Jackie Ong, Account Technician, were unable to attend.
Dr. Leabo introduced Esther Salinas, Interim Principal at PCR.
Dr. Leabo explained that she is providing to the Board a Draft of Administrative Regulation 5142, School Safety. She said that she has shared the draft with the elementary principals and asked them to share it with their Site Councils. She has also sent a copy to Andrea Terry, Chair of the Playground Safety Committee.
2. **President's Report**
Mrs. Racklin reported that the Board is currently in the process of gathering information on Superintendent Search firms. They will have the information together in the next two weeks. Interviews will be conducted in open session so anyone in the community can attend and candidates running for school board will be included.
3. **Student Representative Report**
Student Representative JoAnn Bicknell reported that Homecoming went very well. They grossed \$5,000. She reported that this was one of first dances where a lot of people went stag. The girls dress code is being discussed by ASB. They will be creating a committee to discuss the dress code and come up with possible suggestions. She reported that the parking situation is good.
4. **Curriculum Report – SAT and AP**
Mr. Stratton reported on the Scholastic Aptitude Test results and the Advance Placements test results. On the SAT, there has been a steady increase in the combined verbal and math scores. There has also been an increase in students scoring 80 or above in verbal and in math. The percent of graduating seniors taking the exam is at 90%, which is up 15% since 1988, and double the national average. The mean verbal score is at an all-time high. The combined math and verbal (1190) is at the all-time high established in 1997. The number of students ranking in the

600-800 range in both math and verbal continues to increase each year and is at an all-time high. LCHS SAT scores continue to rank among the top for Southern California and the state.

Mr. Stratton also reported on the Advanced Placement Tests. 604 tests were taken last year and the number of test takers also increased. The pass rate continues to be in the 80% range. There were 603 tests taken in 2001 and 323 test takers. The total number of tests taken has doubled since 1990. More students take the tests each year. Students took exams in 18 different areas. There have been new AP courses added in Statistics and Environmental Science. The passing percentage has remained in the 80% to 90% range for over 10 years. More than one fourth of the scores are a perfect "5". Over half of the scores are "4" or "5". Only 5% of the scores are "1".

Mrs. Dalbeck said that it would be interesting to know how many graduating senior have taken AP tests over the years. Mrs. Dalbeck asked if a student takes an AP class, is it necessary to take the AP exam. Mr. Stratton said that students who take AP classes do not have to take the exam. The District works to maintain AP classes that might slip in enrollment because the District feels it is important to give students the opportunities.

Opportunity to address Board

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None

1. First Reading

- a. ***Resolution #6-01-02 Proclaiming October 20-31, 2001 Red Ribbon Week.** It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Reynolds) to adopt Resolution #6-01-02 Proclaiming October 20-31, 2001 Red Ribbon Week. Dr. Leabo explained that this is a time when all students participate in activities that emphasize a drug-free lifestyle. The motion to approve Resolution #6-01-02 was adopted unanimously.
- b. ***Five Star Coalition Legislative Action Agenda, R65-01-02.** It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Reynolds) to approve the Five Star Coalition Legislative Action Agenda. Mrs. Dalbeck explained that Five Star is a coalition of 5 school districts. LCUSD has been a member since the Coalition's inception in 1995. This coalition is a very important part of our district's ability to advocate for legislative change at the state level. At the November Five Star meeting, the Legislative Agenda is presented to the legislators. The motion to approve the Five Star Coalition Legislative Action Agenda was adopted unanimously.
- c. ***Election of Members to Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, R66-01-02.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Dalbeck) to direct Barbara Racklin to mark the ballot for AJ Wilmer for Third Supervisorial District and Gorgonio Sanchez and Maria Calix in the Second Supervisorial District . The motion to direct Barbara Racklin to mark the ballot was adopted unanimously.
- d. ***Special Activity: Space Camp, R69-01-02.** It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Reynolds) to approve the Special Activity: Space Camp. Mr. Stratton explained that this is LCE's proposal for an alternative to Valley Forge. LCE worked very closely with parents last year to survey parents as to whether the Valley Forge trip was meeting the curriculum standards, and if there was something closer that might be better. The students will go in two groups. The cost is much less than the cost to Valley Forge. There has been a decision to take buses instead of airplanes. Parents feel much more comfortable with this decision. Mr. Stratton said that he will update the Board on the

new proposal with the new price for bus travel instead of air travel. The other two elementary schools are currently having discussions with their parents to see if they want to do the same thing. PCY is considering going to Valley Forge, and PCR is looking at other alternatives. Mrs. Racklin asked if there are plans to replace the history curriculum that Valley Forge provided. Mr. Stratton said that there will be more in-class activities in history to fill the gap. The motion to approve the Special Activity: Space Camp was adopted unanimously.

- e. ***Resolution #7-01-02 Participation in L'STARSS.** It was moved and seconded (Dalbeck/Moffitt) to approve participation in L'STARSS. Mr. Stratton explained that the sole purpose of this consortium is to conduct program quality review. The consortium gets together four times a year. The motion to approve participation in L'STARSS was adopted unanimously.
- f. ***Resolution #8-01-02 Authorized Signatures.** It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Reynolds) to adopt Resolution #8-01-02 Authorized Signatures. Mr. Kramar explained that the Board would normally do this at their organizational meeting in December, but there are new people on staff and it is necessary at this time. The motion to approve Resolution #8-01-02 Authorized Signatures was adopted unanimously.
- g. ***Resolution #9-01-02 Adopt Gann Limit Calculations – 2000-01 Appropriations Limit Recalculation, 2001-02 Estimated Appropriations Limit Calculation.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Dalbeck) to approve Resolution #9-01-02 Adopt Gann Limit Calculations – 2000-01 Appropriations Limit Recalculation, 2001-02 Estimated Appropriations Limit Calculation. The District, to adopt the Gann Limit Calculation, must individually report expenditures of tax funds against that calculation. This does not include other funds that are not tax based. The motion to approve the Resolution #9-01-02 was adopted unanimously.
- h. ***Resolution #10-01-02 Contract to G. Voskian Construction: Emergency Resolution.** It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Reynolds) to approve Resolution #10-01-02 Contract with G. Voskian Construction: Emergency Resolution. The motion to approve Resolution #10-01-02 was adopted unanimously.
- i. ***Emergency Resolution #11-01-02 to Replace Contractor at LCE.** It was moved and seconded (Reynolds/Moffitt) to approve Emergency Resolution #11-01-02 to Replace Contractor at LCE. The motion to approve Emergency Resolution #11-01-02 was adopted unanimously. Mrs. Reynolds clarified that these two contracts would appear on Phase 1 of the construction report.

2. Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded (Moffitt/Dalbeck) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda was adopted unanimously.

- a. **Personnel Report, P8-01-02.** *Certificated:* New Hires – Temporary Teacher Specialist Judy Healey, Temporary Teacher Jacqueline Larsen. *Classified:* New Hires – Payroll Technician Noel Carpenter, Reading Intervention Dana Coyle, Paraprofessional I, Noon Aide Anna Galante, Accounting Tech I Kerry Godinez, Paraprofessional II Kimberly Lauxen, Paraprofessional II Lauren Leone, Paraprofessional II Nicole Neumann, Office Assistant I Carole Smith, Paraprofessional II Juanita Villarreal. Reclassification – Susan Dodge hours from 6.0 to 3.75, Nicole Newmann from Paraprofessional I, Noon Aide to

- Paraprofessional II. Resignations – Arousiak Ahazarian, Shalini Nicholas. *CMSA*:
 Reclassification – Esther Salinas from Teacher Specialist to Interim Principal.
- b. **Extra Duty/Extra Pay Report, P9-01-02**
 - c. **Contract for Interim Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, R79-01-02.**
 - d. **Agreement with LACOE – Marine Education Programs, R67-01-02.**
 - e. **Agreement with LACOE – Outdoor Science and Conservation Education, R68-01-02.**
 - f. **Special Activity: LCHS Band Spring Break Trip to New Orleans, R70-01-02.**
 - g. **Special Activity: LCHS Bridge Retreat to Seal Beach, R71-01-02.**
 - h. **Disposal of Outdated and Unusable Curriculum Materials, R72-01-02.**
 - i. **Settlement Agreement #SN1513-99, R73-01-02.**
 - j. **Non-Public School/Non-Public Agency Contracts, R64-01-02.**
 - k. **Change Orders for Phase 2 Library, R76-01-02.**
 - l. **Request for Allowance of Attendance Because of Emergency Conditions, R77-01-02.**
 - m. **Notice of Completion: S and H Cabinets, R78-01-02.**
 - n. **Approval of Contract with HMC for Bond Survey, R80-01-02. Pulled.**
 - o. **Gifts, R75-01-02.**
 - p. **Purchase Order List #6.**

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Moffitt said that the Red Ribbon Week forum at the high school was excellent. There were representatives from several different private schools. There was a very good discussion with a number of parents and the District's Eric Leverton and Wendy Nicoll, who did an excellent job giving advice to parents on dealing with substance abuse, parenting, etc. Also, there were three parents who shared their experiences. The meeting was facilitated by the CDC. The group is interested in doing another program within the next couple of months where there would be a demonstration by the Sheriff's Department. It would be a parent and student night for education. The Roger Barkley Community Center is considering hosting the event.

Mrs. Reynolds said there were some students who went to PCY last year who talked to 6th grade parents. She received a call from parents who said they wished there had been more student comments.

Mr. Moffitt said that there will be another program in the Spring.

Mrs. Dalbeck suggested that the Board schedule two workshops to talk about the Facilities Master Plan update.

Mrs. Reynolds said that she would like both sets of architects to be at both sessions – high school and elementary school. She would like to have both workshops finished before the holiday break. The Board decided to conduct workshops on Wednesday, November 7 for the high school and on Wednesday, November 28 for the elementary schools, both at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the La Cañada Elementary School Library.

Sue Leabo, Interim Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Jinny Dalbeck, Vice President of the Governing Board

Date