

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

October 13, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Andrew Blumenfeld on October 13, 2015, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Andrew Blumenfeld, Ellen Multari, David Sagal, Dan Jeffries and Kaitzer Puglia.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 5:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were the five Governing Board Members, Superintendent Wendy Sinnette, Assistant Superintendent Anais Wenn, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Davis and Chief Business & Operations Officer Mark Evans. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Andrew Blumenfeld, President  
Mrs. Ellen Multari, Vice President  
Mr. David Sagal, Clerk  
Mr. Dan Jeffries, Member  
Mrs. Kaitzer Puglia, Member

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

None.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Blumenfeld stated that there is nothing to report out of Closed Session.

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board was reconvened at 7:06 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were five Governing Board Members, Ms. Sinnette, Mrs. Wenn, Dr. Davis, Mr. Evans. There were approximately 27 people in the audience. Mr. Blumenfeld asked Mac Sagal to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to approve the minutes of August 25, 2015. The motion to approve the minutes of August 25, 2015 was adopted unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**1. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Sinnette stated that despite the fact that we are all experiencing an improved economy, the district continues to be amongst the lowest funded districts in the state of California, a state that is amongst the lowest in the nation for K-12 funding. That being said, the district is exceedingly fortunate to be supported by so many groups in our community who work tirelessly all year to try to bridge the gap to provide the district the means to deliver a world class education to our students. Chief amongst the organizations who support our schools is the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation. The Foundation is truly a partner in our district's work. The LCF Educational Foundation's Executive Director Deborah Weirick, Past

President Steven Ingrassia, current President Stephanie Fossan and all of the Directors and Parents who contribute so generously, support the district in its mission every day. Representatives from the Foundation presented a check in the amount of \$2,100,000 to the district. Ms. Sinnette expressed her deep gratitude to the LCF Educational Foundation for their generous donation to the district.

Ms. Sinnette reported that the week of October 11 – 17, 2015 is the week of the Administrator. Ms. Sinnette publicly thanked each of the district's administrators for their outstanding service and commitment. She stated that the district is fortunate to have such stellar administrators. Ms. Sinnette stated that October is also National Principals month, she gave a shout out to the district's Principals.

Ms. Sinnette reported that she sent out a Constant Contact notifying families that the district will participate in the Great Shake Out on October 15, 2015 at 10:15 a.m. She encouraged parents to review the district's emergency protocols. She stated that in the event of a real emergency, students will only be released to a person listed on the emergency contact card and identification will be requested.

## **2. President's Report**

On behalf of the Governing Board, Mr. Blumenfeld expressed gratitude to the La Cañada Educational Foundation for the donation and acknowledged the investment of time and talent that went into attaining this donation.

Mr. Blumenfeld expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the district's administrators for their leadership during this time when education is changing so much. It has never mattered more than it does now and our students benefit greatly from their leadership.

## **3. Chief Business & Operations Officer**

Mr. Evans reported that the district has hired Randy Smith as the Manager of Maintenance & Operations. Mr. Smith has been taking time to acquaint himself with the district's staff and facilities. Mr. Smith will be introduced to the Governing Board at the November Board meeting.

The vending machines at LCHS were reinstalled in September and the district is refining their operation by adjusting contents. The district will continue to monitor and assess the needs of the various users of the machines.

Mr. Evans and the Director of Fiscal Services, Diane Clinton, continue to connect with other districts to access their practices as it relates to donations and the routine restricted maintenance impacts. They will continue to do this research and will bring a report to the Governing Board in the spring.

Mr. Evans briefly reported on his continued research related to district recycling: one of the LCAP goals. He continues to meet with various constituents to discuss ways of reducing the district's footprint.

## **4. Student Representative**

Mr. Riley reported on the various student activities throughout the district including upcoming Homecoming activities.

## **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

None.

## **OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD**

The following audience members addressed the Board:  
LCTA President Mandy Redfern

## **PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. First Reading**

- a. **\*Discussion and Action Item Regarding Concert Choir and Chamber Singers 2015-2016 Field Trips, R36-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Sagal/Multari) to approve the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers 2015-2016 Field Trips, R36-15-16. Ms. Sinnette reported on the two trips currently being requested by the high school. Choral teacher, Dr. Jeff Brookey was present to discuss the Choral program and to provide background on the program's schedule for travel. He informed the Governing Board that the Choral Department is a self-funded organization that has significant parent support. There are currently 300 students in the program. An effort has been made over the past several years to reduce the cost to parents for wardrobe and to eliminate a cost for transportation. He discussed the opportunities for touring for the two audition choirs. He provided background on the odd year international travel with local trips on the even years. Two fundraising opportunities occur in the fall to help cut costs for travel. Scholarships are also available. Last year over \$32,000 in scholarships was offered for the trip to Spain to assist families with the cost of the trip. Over the last 4 years over \$100,000 in scholarships has been provided to students. Ms. Multari asked for clarification on the Choral Parents Bylaws. Dr. Brookey clarified the current bylaws and communications with parents regarding Choral trips. In past trips approximately 90% of students attended the trips offered. The average cost to students for past international trips was approximately \$3,000. Ms. Multari stated that this is a good opportunity to look at best practices and review how to strategically plan to meet the expectations and financial needs of choral parents. The Governing Board acknowledged the value these trips provide choral students. The motion to approve the Concert Choir and Chamber Singers 2015-2016 Field Trips was adopted unanimously.
- b. **Solar Proposal for La Cañada Unified School District, R34-15-16.** Chief Business & Operations Officer Mr. Evans stated that many school districts have entered into Power Purchase Agreements as a means of installing solar energy panels. The agreement provides solar panels that are leased and then maintained by the solar provider. Mr. Evans reported that this is an LCAP goal with district interest to reduce its carbon footprint and to reduce energy costs. Mr. Evans introduced Nate Butler of SunEdison who was present to discuss the opportunities and impacts of entering into a Power Purchase Agreement for solar energy. Mr. Butler discussed the solar strategy and potential cost savings for the district over the 20 years of the agreement. He provided pictures of each district site to discuss potential placement of solar panels. Mr. Butler provided background on SunEdison. He briefly discussed the actual structure of the panels and the requirements and restrictions on the placement of the panels. The Joint Use Agreement was briefly discussed. Mr. Butler stated that if the district wants to adopt and piggy back on the SPURR contract the contract would qualify under Government Code 4217 which exempts energy savings projects, such as this one, from a public bidding process. Mr. Blumenfeld expressed interest in learning more about the project. Mr. Evans stated that this project would bring a savings to the district and it is well worth looking further into the potential project. The Governing Board provided direction to continue to move forward with research on this project.
- c. **Presentation and Discussion Item Regarding New District and Site Websites, R32-15-16.** Ms. Sinnette reported that it has been a Superintendent goal and an action item

in the district LCAP since 2014-15 to create new district and school site websites which are navigable, contain current and updated information and that aesthetically match our high performing district status. The websites are currently in beta form to help facilitate fixes and adjustments. Ms. Sinnette thanked Jamie Lewsadder and Toby Lewsadder for the hard work and dedication over the last year to get the websites ready for launch. Jamie Lewsadder, Director of Technology was present to discuss the new website launch. She reported on the history of the project upgrade and the creative process for the new websites. Ms. Lewsadder took the Governing Board through a tutorial of the new websites. The Governing Board applauded Jamie Lewsadder and Toby Lewsadder for the new websites development.

- d. **Presentation and Discussion Item Regarding LCUSD Technology Outlook for 2015-2016, R35-15-16.** Director of Technology, Jamie Lewsadder reported that the PTA recently approached her to discuss the district's technology outlook in order to assist them with the challenges of fundraising and to focus on technology needs that they could financially support. The presentation was built with PTA in mind but also included future technology planning elements. Ms. Lewsadder presented the technology outlook, which reviewed at potential upgrades for classrooms, computer labs and building infrastructure, as well as the impacts these upgrades will have on instruction, professional development, and budget. She reported on classroom standards, namely what is in place now and what the technology vision is for a future classroom. She reported on the one-to-one program and the increased bandwidth that was put in place at 7/8 and all of the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom winds or pods at the sites to support the program. She discussed the need for infrastructure upgrades to continue to support the one-to-one program expansion, reporting that the current wiring is from 1999. Many of the upgrades identified in the Technology Outlook are outside of the District's current technology budget. Part of the purpose of the presentation is to share it with support groups to garner additional or redirect existing funding and support. Some of the larger upgrades identified in the presentation would require a funding source like a bond measure. Ms. Lewsadder thanked the Governing Board for the opportunity to present her Technology Outlook. The Governing Board thanked Ms. Lewsadder for her presentation and vision.
- e. **\*Adoption of the Los Angeles County Plan for Expelled Pupils (AB922), R22-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to approve the adoption of the Los Angeles County Plan for Expelled Pupils (AB922). Mrs. Wenn reported that Section 48926 of the California Government Code requires that school districts within Los Angeles County, develop a plan for providing services to expelled pupils. The Los Angeles County Board of Education adopted a new plan on April 7, 2015 and that plan is now coming to the district's Governing Board for adoption. The motion to approve the adoption of the Los Angeles County Plan for Expelled Pupils (AB922) was adopted unanimously.
- f. **Presentation of LCUSD's Professional Development Plan/Educator Effectiveness Fund, R26-15-16.** Mrs. Wenn provided a presentation to discuss the district's Professional Development Plan which was created due to the newly funded Educator Effectiveness Grant. The funds from this grant are one time funds and total \$1,400 per teacher for a district total of approximately \$300,000. These funds can be used over the next three years. Local Educational Agencies are responsible for creating their professional development plan and presenting them to their Governing Boards for approval. Upon approval, the funds will be utilized and expenses tagged for reporting purposes. The expenditure report must be submitted to the California Department of Education by June 30, 2018. The district's plan outlines district-wide trainings that will be funded by this grant. The plan will come back to the Governing Board at the next scheduled Governing Board meeting for approval.
- g. **\*Approval of 1% Off-Schedule Bonus for CSEA and CMSA Membership and Cabinet Assistant Superintendents and Chief Business and Operations Officer,**

**R22-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Sagal/Multari) to approve a 1% off-schedule bonus for CSEA and CMSA Membership and Cabinet Assistant Superintendents and Chief Business and Operations Officer. Ms. Sinnette reported that at the September 15, 2015 Governing Board meeting, the Board announced its intentions to recognize and celebrate all staff for their outstanding collective work as evidenced, in part, by our student performance on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress by issuing a 1% off-schedule for 2015-2016. Approval of this agenda item includes a Memorandum of Understanding with California School Employees Association and its La Cañada Chapter #122, a memorandum as a result of the “meet and confer” process with the Confidential, Managerial, Supervisory and Administrative Association (CMSA), and contract addendums for the Assistant Superintendents Wenn and Davis and the Chief Business & Operations Officer Evans. The district is meeting with LCTA on October 19<sup>th</sup> to work on a potential Memorandum of Understanding. Governing Board President Blumenfeld clarified that the district is not under the impression that the CAASPP test or any test is able to truly capture the full spectrum of remarkable things that happens in our classrooms every single day. This celebration is not a celebration of performance on one test result, but an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the hard work that went into making such a massive transition from one entire set of standards to an entirely different set of standards. The Governing Board is proud to be able to take the opportunity to celebrate the hard work by providing the 1% off-schedule bonus. The motion to approve a 1% off-schedule bonus for CSEA and CMSA Membership and Cabinet Assistant Superintendents and Chief Business and Operations Officer was adopted unanimously.

## 2. **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P7-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Steven Gionvannelli, Lauren Muse-Fisher, Patrick Worley. *Classified*: New Hires: Aren Alagozian, Ted Armstrong, Dennis Carreon, Felix Carvajal, Jonathan Klish, Bernardo Lopez, Randall Smith. Modification: Amy Erickson. Resignation: Jimmy Kang, Vickie Stallworth.
- b. **Extra Duty Report, P8-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Extra Duty Report as presented.
- c. **Spec Acts: PCR Pali Institute, R23-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Palm Crest Elementary Spec Acts request to attend Pali Institute in Running Springs, California November 2 – 6, 2015.
- d. **Spec Acts: LCE Valley Forge, R27-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the La Canada Elementary Spec Acts request to attend Valley Forge in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania February 1 – 5, 2016.
- e. **Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints, R25-15-16.** The Governing Board approve the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints.
- f. **Notice of Completion, R30-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Notice of Completion for Everlast Builders, Inc. for Exterior Painting at LCHS as of October 13, 2015.
- g. **Change Orders for Project Management of High School Painting Project, R31-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the change orders for project management of the high school painting project in the amount of \$8,710.00 for Linik Corp.
- h. **Gifts to District, R24-15-16.** The Governing Board approve the Gifts to District as presented.
- i. **Purchase Order List 7-15-16.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 7-15-16.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Puglia thanked the Boosters for a successful Booster Fest.

**RECONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board reconvened to Closed Session at 9:18 p.m.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Blumenfeld stated that there is nothing to report out of Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California.

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Wendy K. Sinnette, Superintendent  
Secretary to the Governing Board

**MINUTES APPROVED**

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David Sagal, Clerk

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Date