

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

November 10, 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 November 10, 2015, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members Andrew Blumenfeld, Ellen Multari, David Sagal, and Dan Jeffries. Kaitzer Puglia was not present.

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 four Governing Board Members, Superintendent Wendy Sinnette, Assistant Superintendent Anais Wenn, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Davis and Chief Business & Operations Officer Mark Evans. Mr. Blumenfeld stated that in Closed Session the Governing Board will confer with legal counsel regarding potential exposure to litigation. The facts and circumstances to be discussed are those as set forth in a public complaint dated April 25, 2015. 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

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 7:00 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 and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 9 people in the audience. Mr. Blumenfeld asked 7/8 Principal Dr. Jarrett Gold to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Sagal/Jeffries) to approve the minutes of September 15, 2015 and October 13, 2015. Ms. Multari requested a minor correction to the minutes of October 13, 2015. The motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2015, and October 13, 2015 as corrected was adopted unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Sinnette reported that LCHS Principal Ian McFeat, along with 5 other La Cañada High School staff members attended a National Blue Ribbon ceremony on behalf of the high school. The district is extremely proud of La Cañada High School staff and students for this recognition. This is the high school's third time receiving this award.

Ms. Sinnette reported that district schools will be closed tomorrow in honor of Veteran's Day. On behalf of the entire district, Ms. Sinnette publicly expressed gratitude to American's veterans for their service and for the freedoms and liberties we enjoy and which they have protected.

Ms. Sinnette reported that one of her goals for 2015-2016 is to ensure a menu of parent education offerings are held throughout the year. These are designed to promote stakeholder engagement and information sharing on district programs and educational trends and best practices. This Thursday in the LCHS auditorium elementary school principals along with the PTAs have organized a presentation on the topic of social media.

2. President's Report

Mr. Blumenfeld deferred his report.

3. Chief Business & Operations Officer

Mr. Evans reported on current and upcoming maintenance improvements, including the LCHS fitness center, the 7/8 conference room, and the installation of filtered water fountains districtwide. He reported that recycling is a districtwide goal for 2015-2016 and continues to be a focus as he meets with school sites to improve current recycling procedures and to create new recycling programs.

The Wellness Committee met recently, its next meeting is December 1, 2015.

The Field Replacement Committee will meet for their first meeting also on December 1, 2015.

4. Student Representative

Mr. Owen reported on recent and upcoming site events including Homecoming events.

Mr. Owen reported that 7/8 recently held an Anti-Bullying week. He also reported that retired teacher Jim Harvey was recently honored for his 43 years of service to the high school.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

None.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

None.

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. La Cañada High School Advanced Placement Data Snapshot Presentation, R50-15-16.** Ms. Sinnette introduced LCHS Associate Principal James Cartnal who was present to report on Advanced Placement testing results. Mr. Cartnal provided a snapshot of 2014-15 AP test results and a 5-year overview. Mr. Cartnal reported that 591 students took 1,329 AP exams in 2014-15. This was the district's highest number of AP students and exams taken. Of those 591 students, 522 scored 3 or higher. Mr. Blumenfeld asked Mr. Cartnal to report on college acceptance of these AP unit credits. Mr. Cartnal reported that a significant number of these units are not transferable but the AP courses help with college applications. Mr. Cartnal answered clarifying questions of the Governing Board regarding gender inequities, changes to the school year

calendar and what guidance is provided to students who want to take AP classes who aren't quite ready. The Governing Board thanked Mr. Cartnal for his presentation.

- b. **Adoption of Mathematics Placement Policy for Pupils Entering Grades 7 and 9, R49-15-16.** This is a First Reading item. Ms. Wenn reported that Senate Bill No. 359, California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015, requires that school districts adopt a fair, objective and transparent mathematics placement policy as of January 1, 2015 for pupils entering grades 7 and 9. The Bill further requires that the districts post their mathematics placement policy on their internet websites. The purpose of the policy is to correctly place all pupils in appropriate mathematics courses ensuring a fair process and chance of success for all pupils. Ms. Wenn reported that the district has been implementing fair and objective mathematics placement procedures for incoming 7th and 9th grade students but has not had a written policy in place. The requirement to develop and adopt a policy affords the district the opportunity to put those procedures in writing and communicate its policies to our parents and community. Ms. Wenn presented and discussed proposed Board Policy 6152.1 regarding Placement in Mathematics Courses for Governing Board discussion. Administrative Regulation 6152.1 was also presented for informational purposes. The Governing Board engaged in discussion regarding the proposed policy. A minor modification to the proposed Board Policy was requested. This item will come back at the December meeting for Governing Board adoption.
- c. ***Approval of 1% Off-Schedule Bonus for LCTA, R51-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Sagal) to approve the 1% Off-Schedule Bonus for LCTA. Ms. Sinnette reported that at the Governing Board meeting on September 15, 2015 the Governing Board approved a 1% off-schedule bonus for CMSA and CSEA. The LCTA membership has recently ratified its approval of a 1% off-schedule bonus for LCTA. The motion to approve the 1% Off-Schedule Bonus for LCTA was adopted unanimously.
- d. **SPURR/REAP Solar Agreement, R47-15-16.** Kevin Flanagan from School Project for Utility Rate Reduction (SPURR) was present to provide an overview of the Renewable Energy Aggregated Procurement Program. He reported that SPURR is a Joint Powers Authority formed in 1989 by California Public school districts with over 250 members. The Reap Program is an aggregated solar buying program that leverages the collective purchasing power of SPURR's large membership to: streamline the solar buying process, drive down solar project pricing, and to improve project terms for California school districts. Mr. Flanagan reported that the SCE net energy metering rules are set to change early 2017, which with subsequent rules being less favorable to school districts. Projects completed before the NEM rules change can "grandfather" on existing and more favorable NEM rules for 20 years. The REAP program RFP solicited pricing and terms for 28 different solar project types and identified very specific project inclusions, exclusions and assumptions. Sun Edison was selected as REAP vendor. He discussed what is included in the REAP pricing. Community input was discussed. The Governing Board expressed interest in getting community feedback and looking at an agreement that would not prohibit adjustments based on community input. It was also suggested considering breaking the project into two phases, high school then elementary. The Governing Board thanked Mr. Flanagan for his presentation.
- e. ***Resolution 6-15-16 In Support of Safe Schools and the Prevention of Gun Violence.** It was moved and seconded (Sagal/Multari) to adopt Resolution 6-15-16 In Support of Safe Schools and the Prevention of Gun Violence. It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to table the resolution until updated data points in the resolution could be provided. The motion to table Resolution 6-15-16 In support of Safe Schools and the Prevention of Gun Violence was adopted unanimously.
- f. **Approval of First Interim Financial Report 2015-2016 – First Reading, R40-15-16.** This is a First Reading item. Mr. Evans reported on the First Interim Financial Report.

Mr. Evans reported that the First Interim Financial Report has been updated to reflect changes since the 2015-2016 budget was adopted. Mr. Evans reported that the most significant change is the commitment of funds from Lease Interruption Fund 17 of \$1.5 million. Ms. Sinnette reported on the P2 ADA adjustment. While somewhat conservative, Ms. Sinnette stated that the revisions to enrollment best reflects projected enrollment. There being no further discussion, this item will return at the December meeting for approval.

- g. ***Approval of Contract for the Continued Employment of the Superintendent, R43-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to approve the contract for the Continued Employment of the Superintendent. Mr. Blumenfeld reported that this contract is for three additional years commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2018. The contract sets an annual base salary and merit potential for each year. Mr. Blumenfeld reported that Ms. Sinnette joined the district in August 2002 as Principal of Palm Crest Elementary, in July 2005 Ms. Sinnette became the 7/8 Principal and in July 2008 she moved to the district office as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources until her appointment as Superintendent in July 2011. Mr. Blumenfeld stated that he has learned so much working with Ms. Sinnette and it is with great pride that one of his final votes as a member of the Governing Board is to approve this contract. The motion to approve the contract for the continued employment of the Superintendent was adopted unanimously.

2. **Second Reading**

- a. **LCUSD's Professional Development Plan Educator Effectiveness Fund, R26-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to approve the LCUSD's Professional Development Plan Education Effectiveness Fund. Ms. Wenn presented the Professional Development Plan to the Governing Board for first reading on October 13, 2015. There being no questions or further discussion the motion to approve the LCUSD's Professional Development Plan Education Effective Fund was approved unanimously.

3. **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P9-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: ***Certificated:*** New Hires: Samuel Almasi, Sean Brennan, Violette Kjeldgaard, Lynn Scott. Leave of Absence: Lucy Pelletier. Resignation: Ingrid Jaimes. ***Classified:*** New Hires: Edna Abed, Janet Forster, Eric Hernandez, Jose Holguin, Carolyn Hotchkin, Dzovig Jilkivorkian, Lindsay McGee, Christine Perham, Marissa Reynaga, Rita Tevanyan, Leslie Yancy. Resignation: Lindsay McGee. Retirement: Linda Sims.
- b. **Extra Duty Report, 10-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Extra Duty Report as presented.
- c. **Spec Acts: LCE Valley Forge, R27-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the LCE Spec Acts request to attend Valley Forge February 1 through February 5, 2016.
- d. **Spec Acts: LCHS Yosemite Institute, R45-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS request to attend NatureBridge Yosemite Institute February 14 through February 19, 2016.
- e. **Assistance League Summer School 2016 Contract, R39-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Assistance League Summer School 2016Contract.
- f. **Action Item regarding One-Time Waiver of Facilities Use Fee for La Cañada Presbyterian Church (LCPC), R51-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the one-time waiver of facility use fees for La Cañada Presbyterian Church for their 2015 Turkey Bowl.
- g. **Surplus of Equipment, R48-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the La Cañada High School Instrumental Music Program request to declare the instruments listed as surplus and approved removing the items from district inventory.

- h. Surplus of Equipment, R46-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the surplus of equipment of 8 spin bikes and a 1995 GMC Box Truck.
- i. Surplus of Equipment, R38-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the surplus of equipment of 14 non-operations televisions.
- j. Gifts to District, R37-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to District as presented.
- k. Purchase Order List 8-15-16.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 8-15-16

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

RECONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

At 8:25 p.m. the Governing Board adjourned until 9:00 p.m., at which time they will reconvene to Closed Session.

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 9:45 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Canada, California.

Wendy K. Sinnette, Superintendent
Secretary to the Governing Board

MINUTES APPROVED

Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk

Date