

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

March 1, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President David Sagal on March 1, 2016, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members David Sagal, Dan Jeffries, Ellen Multari, Kaitzer Puglia, and Brent Kuszyk.

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. David Sagal, President
Mr. Dan Jeffries, Vice President
Mrs. Kaitzer Puglia, Member
Mrs. Ellen Multari, Member
Mr. Brent Kuszyk, Member

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

None.

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Sagal 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 160 people in the audience. Mr. Sagal asked La Cañada Elementary teacher Cristina Diaz to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to approve the minutes of February 9, 2016. The motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2016 was adopted unanimously.

REPORTS

1. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Sinnette thanked LCTA for being in the audience. She asked members of the audience to give a round of applause for all that they do.

Ms. Sinnette reported on the National Merit Scholarship Program stating that 16,000 students advance every year as semi-finalists. She discussed the criteria for qualifying as Finalists and reported that of those 16,000 semi-finalists, 15,000 finalists are chosen. Ms. Sinnette is proud to announce that La Cañada Unified School District has 8 students that have qualified as

finalists for 2016. Ms. Sinnette and Governing Board President David Sagal presented Certificates of Achievement to those 8 students.

Ms. Sinnette reported on the Presidential National Scholar Program. Nationally, approximately 2,600 students are chosen as Presidential Scholar Candidates. The district recognized the 4 district seniors who have qualified as Presidential Scholar Candidates. 500 of the 2,600 students chosen as candidates will advance as Presidential Scholar Semifinalists and approximately 161 students will be awarded the honor of Presidential Scholars. Ms. Sinnette and Mr. Sagal presented the 4 students with Certificates of Achievement.

Ms. Sinnette reported on the Morgan-Hill student privacy lawsuit. She provided information regarding the lawsuit that is being brought against the California Department of Education. She stated that the parent letter which may be filed is not an opt-out, but an objection of the release of student information. The latest lawsuit decision made by the judge in the case is that no CalPads data will be transferred directly but responses to queries from that data base will be made.

Ms. Sinnette congratulated the girls' varsity basketball team for their recent win which takes them to CIF playoffs.

2. President's Report

Mr. Sagal reported on the Common Core State Standards and the progress the district has made in its goal for implementation. He stated that change is never easy and the change to Common Core has been no exception. The Standards are meant to foster what has always been: students coming to their own conclusions and finding their own answers through rigorous examination of facts and information at hand rather than relying exclusively on the conclusion of others. The district has made a great deal of progress in the effective implementation of Common Core. The district plans to continue these efforts. Supporting our teachers and their further training in Common core is reflected in the district's LCAP goal #3 Successful/Ongoing implementation of Common Core and #4 Supporting the delivery of quality instructional program through improved technology. To this end, the district has committed to the following: Providing ongoing professional development with Teachers Development Group to 100% of our math teachers TK-12; creating a NGSS Steering committee comprised of elementary, middle and high school teachers and administrators to work together along with a committee from South Pasadena Unified School District to design a 5-year implementation plan under the leadership of K-12 alliance at WestEd.; providing collaboration time to all teachers to promote articulation among grade levels and PLCs at all sites; providing teacher support through teachers on special assignments. Clearly this augmented training represents a great deal of time, focus and extra effort on the part of our teachers. He thanked the teachers for their efforts and for being willing to take risks, promoting new ways to teach students, and fostering an environment where experiences can be shared with colleagues.

3. Chief Business & Operations Officer

Mr. Evans provided an update on Food Services reporting that there is some decline in participation at the elementary schools while high school participation has flattened out. Mr. Evans will be working with Chartwell's on ways to enhance the food services program and increase participation.

Mr. Evans reported on the Second Interim Budget stating that a positive certification is expected. He reported that the recent increase in the Local Control Funding Formula will plateau and flatten in the out years.

Mr. Evans reported that the La Cañada High School field replacement continues to move forward. He is looking at various synthetic turf fields in the area. The next step is to choreograph an alternative field schedule for user groups at the high school.

4. Student Representative

Mr. Owen reported on recent and upcoming student events throughout the district.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

None.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Alison Bley, LCHS parent regarding LCHS Soccer Coach
 Kalen (Alec) Wade, LCHS student regarding LCHS Soccer Coach
 Lawrence Wade, LCHS parent regarding LCHS Soccer Coach
 Sossi Badalian, Sagebrush parent regarding permit process
 Mandy Redfern, LCTA President

PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

1. First Reading

- a. **LCHS 7-12 New Elective Course Offerings, R85-15-16.** Ms. Sinnette reported that bringing new 7-12 elective course offerings is one of her goals for 2015-16. She provided a PowerPoint presentation on the LCHS 7-12 New Elective Course Offerings that was presented at a highly attended parent meeting. She reported on the Career and Technical Education pathways and the New Standards. She reported there are 15 pathways on California's Career Technical Education Preparing Students for the 21st Century and Beyond. Ms. Sinnette reported on the pathway possibilities under consideration for 2017-18 and beyond, which are: Engineering, Architecture and Design; Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation; Arts, Media and Entertainment; Health Sciences; and Transportation, Automotive Technology and Design. She discussed the LCHS 7/8 – Interests and Priorities. The new LCHS 7/8 Electives being offered in 2016-17 are: an expanded 7/8 Band program – Beginning and Advanced with priority enrollment in zero period PE, 7/8 LCTV, 7/8 Coding Class, imbedding the 7/8 STEAM class into the regular day, along with the following current offerings: Art/Ceramics; Speech and Debate; World Language; Communications/Newspaper; Drama; Yearbook; Orchestra; Band; Choir (Vocal, Women's). She discussed the LCHS 9-12 Interests and Priorities and Project Lead the Way. Mr. Jeffries asked about pathways in Technology. Mr. Owen asked if the district has considered a Civics pathway. Mrs. Multari asked about the possibility of making Healthy Living a graduation requirement. Ms. Sinnette reported that the district would like to transition to making Healthy Living an eventual requirement. There was discussion regarding zero period. Mr. Sagal would like to see parent communication regarding these new opportunities. Ms. Sinnette stated that the next step is to work with the counselors to communicate these opportunities to the students.
- b. ***Approval of District's Core Literature List, R84-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to approve the district's core literature list. Ms. Sinnette reported that the K-12 Core Literature list has not been readopted by the Governing Board since April 2005. Since that time teachers have recommended deleting, moving and adding selections. In order to readopt the list and to ensure the Governing Board's familiarity with the LCUSD Core Literature List it is being brought to the Governing Board for approval. The motion to approve the core literature list was adopted unanimously.

- c. ***CSBA Delegate Assembly, R83-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Puglia) to choose a candidate and instruct the Superintendent how to mark the election ballot on their behalf. It was moved and seconded (Multari/Jeffries) to mark the ballot for Bob Bruesch, Gregory Krikorian and Gary Scott. The motion to mark the election ballot voting for Bob Bruesch, Gregory Krikorian and Gary Scott on their behalf was adopted unanimously.
- 2. **Second Reading**
 - a. **Second Interim Report, R79-15-16.** It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Multari) to approve the Second Interim Report and noted transfers. The recommendation for Governing Board consideration includes a cash transfer of \$22,127.00 from the General Fund to Deferred Maintenance (Fund 14) to reflect the increase for COLA and a transfer of \$70,000 to the Cafeteria Fund (Fund 13), to address capital improvements and increased costs. Mr. Evans provided an update on the Second Interim Report. The motion to approve the Second Interim Report and the noted transfers was adopted unanimously.
- 3. **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, P16-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Karl Geckle, Emily Moynihan, Melissa Rogan, Bliss Saleebyan. Leave of Absence: Hilary Gregg. Resignation: Karina Culbertson, Kevn “KC” Matthews. *Classified*: Modification: Carolyn Hotchkin. Resignation: Sam Barroudi.
 - b. **Network Equipment Upgrade: Firewall and Contract, R86-15-16.** The Governing Board approved the Network Equipment Upgrade: Firewall and Contract.
 - c. **Purchase Order List 12-15-16.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 12-15-16.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Puglia congratulated LCHS sports teams and expressed appreciation for the parent support.

Mr. Jeffries reported on TRAC and the upgrade of the firewall. He expressed the need for continued technology upgrades.

Mr. Sagal reported on the Chamber Singer Choir. Ms. Sinnette reported on her field trip experience in Hawaii with the Chamber Singers.

A Special Closed Session was calendared for March 8 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm

RECONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

The Governing Board reconvened to Closed Session at 8:45 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 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