

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

October 18, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Governing Board of La Cañada Unified School District was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President David Sagal on October 18, 2016, in the Round Building at 4490 Cornishon Avenue in La Cañada, California. Present were Governing Board Members David Sagal, Dan Jeffries, Kaitzer Puglia, Ellen Multari and Brent Kuszyk.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:00 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, Chief Business & Operations Officer Mark Evans, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Davis and Chief Technology Officer Jamie Lewsadder. Closed Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. David Sagal, President  
Mr. Dan Jeffries, Vice President  
Mrs. Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk  
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 was 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, Mr. Evans, Dr. Davis, Mrs. Lewsadder and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Kim Bergner. There were approximately 32 people in the audience. Mr. Sagal asked LCFEF Director Marilyn Yang to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to approve the minutes of August 16, 2016; August 29, 2016; and September 6, 2016. The motion to approve the minutes of August 16, 2016; August 29, 2016; and September 6, 2016 was adopted unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**1. Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Sinnette expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the La Cañada Flintridge Education Foundation for their continued support of La Cañada Unified School District. She personally thanked past and present Presidents of the Foundation Stephanie Fossen and Josh Epstein; and past and president Directors of the Foundation Deborah Weirick and Marilyn Yang. On behalf of the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation, Ms. Yang presented a check to the district

in the amount of \$2,000,000. Ms. Sinnette reported on the positions funded by the Educational Foundation's donations. The Governing Board thanked the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation for their generous donation.

Ms. Sinnette thanked Paradise Canyon Elementary Principal Deborah Cradduck for attending the meeting. Dr. Cradduck introduced Zach Jennings, Paradise Canyon Elementary parent and leader of School X, a young entrepreneurs after school enrichment program. Mr. Jennings provided a program overview of School X and several of the students in the program made presentations to the Governing Board.

Ms. Sinnette reported on the Challenge Success Action Plan. The visiting teams have met and a student survey will be prepared and given to students in November. An email from 7/8 Principal Jarrett Gold and 9-12 Principal Ian McFeat will go out to parents informing them of the survey and allowing response time for any parents wishing their students to opt out. Survey data should be back in January. Once the survey is reviewed action items will be identified. The Challenge Success Co-founder will visit the district sometime in January to meet with the teams and the Governing Board and lead both staff and parent informational presentations. The district's two Challenge Success teams will attend the Spring Challenge Success Conference in April.

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

Mr. Sagal acknowledged and thanked the La Cañada Flintridge Educational Foundation for all the work they do. He and his wife have both had the pleasure of serving as directors of the Foundation and have been able to see firsthand how this dedicated and committed group of parents work to enhance the lives and educational experience of our children. LCUSD would not be the school district it is today without the help of the Educational Foundation. Without the work of the Foundation LCUSD would not be able to maintain its optimum class sizes which allow our teachers to provide the highest level of instructional excellence. For the 2016-17 school year \$911,000 of the funds raised by the Foundation are going to teacher salaries primarily at the elementary schools to keep class sizes at desired levels; in addition \$521,000 is going to pay for high school guidance and college counselors, \$223,000 is going toward the continuance of art, music and drama instructional at the elementary schools; \$237,000 is going to fund technology improvements throughout the district; and \$57,000 is going to support course offerings at 7/8. In addition to the Educational Foundation's annual gift, a great deal of time and effort is put into providing our district with a permanent source of income in the form of the Endowment Fund. The Endowment fund has grown to \$5.5 million. Each year the Endowment may contribute up to 5% of its assets to the annual campaign. The hard work of everyone involved with the Educational Foundation is greatly appreciated by our schools.

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

Mr. Evans provided an update on the Facilities Master Plan. The Facilities Master Plan planning committee met with the architects on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The committee brainstormed visions and aspirations. They discussed future steps; transitional steps; and resultant action plans. Two charrettes were held: one with elementary staff and one with high school staff to discuss desired environments. A facilities survey will be sent to teachers for additional facilities feedback.

Mr. Evans reported that the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee had their fall meeting last week. They reviewed revenue and expenditures. Mr. Evans reported that the parcel tax supports programs, specifically staffing, and assists with technology funding. The committee will meet again in the spring to review expenditures.

#### 4. **Student Representative**

Student Representative Alex Zhao reported on recent and upcoming district wide events. He reported on the Homecoming game and dance, music and drama performances, and the upcoming Halloween Haunt at La Cañada Elementary.

### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Mr. Sagal requested that item 13c be moved to 11d.

### **OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS BOARD**

The following audience members addressed the Board:

Bobbie Lynn-Caparella, LCUSD parent requesting a future later start of the school year

### **PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

#### **1. First Reading**

- a. **\*Resolution 3-16-17: Supporting Proposition 51 the Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Puglia) to adopt Resolution 3-16-17: Supporting Proposition 51 the Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016. Ms. Sinnette reported on the benefit to school districts if Proposition 51 is passed. She stated that other districts in Five Star have approved similar resolutions. The motion to adopt Resolution 3-16-17: Supporting Proposition 51 the Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016 was adopted unanimously.
- b. **\*Resolution 4-16-17: Supporting Proposition 55, the California Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016.** It was moved and seconded (Puglia/Multari) to adopt Resolution 4-16-17: Supporting Proposition 55, the California Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016. Ms. Sinnette reported on Proposition 55 stating that it is critical to retain this tax. Proposition 30, which was approved by voters in 2012, was an important step toward restoring lost revenue due to the recent "great recession". Revenue from Proposition 30 will disappear in 2018. Proposition 55 will extend the income tax provisions of Proposition 30 through 2030, ensuring that several billion dollars of critical funding for education are preserved. A similar resolution was adopted by Five Star Districts. Mrs. Multari clarified that this would not bring new money to the district but if not passed would be an elimination of funding for the district. The motion to adopt Resolution 4-16-17: Supporting Proposition 55, the California Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016 was adopted unanimously.
- c. **\*Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators, R38-16-17.** It was moved and seconded (Multari/Kuszyk) to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators. Dr. Davis reported on the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators stating that the district cannot hire anyone on an emergency permit without this being filed with the CTC. The motion to approve the Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators was adopted unanimously.
- d. **Financial Systems Update, R37-16-17.** This is a first reading item. Mr. Evans reported that the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is updating their human resources and financial software. This upgrade will be a financial hit to all districts supported by LACOE. The options to go outside LACOE for these services becomes very challenging. This upgrade will cost the district approximately \$48,000 per year. Currently, 70 districts use LACOE's services. Some community colleges are branching out on their own but this would be difficult for smaller districts like ours. Mr. Evans will research whether other districts are staying with LACOE for this

upgrade. This item will come back to the Governing Board for approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

2. **Second Reading**

- a. **Approval of Governing Board Policy Revisions, R27-16-17.** It was moved and seconded (Jeffries/Multari) to adopt the Governing Board Policy Revisions on BP 4033. Dr. Davis reported on the proposed lactation policy revisions. He stated that no revisions were made from the first reading. The motion to adopt the Governing Board Policy Revisions on BP 4033 was adopted unanimously.

3. **Consent Agenda**

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

- a. **Personnel Report, P9-16-17.** The Governing Board approved the Personnel Report as follows: *Certificated*: New Hires: Steve Zimmerman. Leave of Absence: Kristin McDaniel, Amy Tsai, Christine Wolfe. *Classified*: New Hires: Connie Hockenhill, Amy Nespor, Demi Phillips, James Reggie, Stacey Somilleda. Leave of Absence: Tamar Castano, David Wulff.
- b. **Spec Acts: LCHS Instrumental Program to Ireland, R34-16-17.** The Governing Board approved the LCHS Special Activity request for the Instrumental Program to go to Ireland in 2018.
- c. **Financial Systems Update, R37-16-17.** This item was moved to 11d for a First Reading and will come back to the Governing Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting for a Second Reading.
- d. **Authorization to Enter into Contract for Legal Services, R39-16-17.** The Governing Board approved entering into a contract with Adams Silva & McNally LLP for legal services.
- e. **Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints, R33-16-17.** The Governing Board approved the Quarterly Report on Williams Uniform Complaints as presented.
- f. **Notice of Completion, R36-16-17.** The Governing Board approved the Notice of Completion with Beynon for the LCHS Track as of July 29, 2016.
- g. **Gifts to District, R35-16-17.** The Governing Board approved the Gifts to District as presented.
- h. **Purchase Order List 8-16-17.** The Governing Board approved Purchase Order List 8-16-17.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Multari reported on the charrettes that were held for the Facilities Master Plan. She expressed how impressed she is with the architectural firm working with the district on this process. It was very reassuring to see them in action and see how professional they are.

Mr. Kuszyk reported on the Palm Crest Elementary Summer reading program. He also reported that the Alumni association received a \$20,000 donation from an Alumni out of the area.

**RECONVENED TO CLOSED SESSION**

The Governing Board reconvened to Closed Session at 7:50 p.m.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Sagal stated that there was nothing to report out of Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The Next Regular Meeting of the Governing Board will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 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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Kaitzer Puglia, Clerk

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Date