

**CULVER CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADOPTED MINUTES**

Meeting:	<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>September 27, 2011</u>
Place:	<u>City Hall (Chambers)</u> <u>9770 Culver Boulevard</u> <u>Culver City 90232</u>	Time:	<u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u> <u>6:01 p.m. – Closed Session</u> <u>7:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u>

Board Members Present

Scott Zeidman, Esq., President
Karlo Silbiger, Vice President
Katherine Paspalis, Esq., Clerk
Patricia Siever, Professor, Member
Steven Gourley, Member

Staff Members Present

Patricia W. Jaffe, Superintendent
Ali Delawalla
Eileen Carroll

Call to Order

Board President Mr. Zeidman called the meeting of the Culver City Unified School District Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:01 p.m. and reconvened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m. with all Board members in attendance. Drake Meyers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Report from Closed Session

Mr. Zeidman reported that the Governing Board met in Closed Session regarding issues listed on today's Closed Session agenda and announced that no reportable actions were taken.

8. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Zeidman asked how many in the audience came to speak on item Mr. Zeidman suggested amending the agenda by moving Information items 12.1 – 12.3 to follow the Awards, Recognitions and Presentations Items. It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Ms. Paspalis to adopt the September 27, 2011 agenda as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Consent Agenda

Mr. Zeidman called the Consent Agenda and asked if any member of the audience or the Board wished to withdraw any item. Mr. Silbiger requested that item 9.1 be withdrawn. Ms. Siever requested that item 9.2 be withdrawn. It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.3 – 9.6 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations
- 9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports N. 4
- 9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 4
- 9.6 Compensation Reports of the Members of the Board of Education

9.1 Approval is Recommended for the Minutes of Special Meeting – August 18, 2011; Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 13, 2011

Mr. Silbiger requested this item be withdrawn to request that the titles be updated for the Board members on the August 18, 2011 Minutes. He also requested an addition to the September 13, 2011 Minutes, in item 11.4. He would like Mrs. Jaffe's response to Mr. Oliva's comments. Mrs. Jaffe confirmed that there would be a meeting for the neighbors in the area of the athletic field, and the date will be announced.

9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders and Warrants

Ms. Siever requested this item be withdrawn to get clarification on several items on pages 2,3,4, and 5. She asked if they were for special education which Mr. Delawalla confirmed. Ms. Siever would also like to know the coding used for special education. She also inquired about another item to confirm if it was for a consultant.

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Ms. Paspalis to approve item 9.1 as amended and item 9.2 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations

10.1 New Teacher Introductions

Mrs. Leslie Lockhart, Director of Human Resources, introduced the new teachers in the District. The teachers came to the front of the Chambers to be recognized.

10.2 Culver City Education Foundation Building Blocks

Christine Collins, Principal at La Ballona Elementary School, presented the Building Block to Laura Chardiet who was being honored by the Friends of La Ballona. Ms. Chardiet gave a brief acceptance speech and thanked the Friends of La Ballona for the tribute.

12. Information Items

12.1 Memorandum of Understanding between Los Angeles County and Culver City Unified School District

Jeanne Davis, SELPA Director for Tri-City SELPA, informed the Board about the Memorandum of Understanding and provided an explanation as why she is recommending that the Board sign the document.

12.2 Environmental Sustainability Committee Update

Todd Johnson, Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, provided the Board with an update on the committee's work thus far in the District. He also gave the Board information on the Green 5 Project. Justin Harris, a student, spoke about recycling in the District and how the recycling program is running in the District. Mr. Johnson stated that committee would like the Board to adopt a uniform recycling program. Further discussion ensued. The committee would also like to submit a grant. Mr. Gourley stated that there are some overwhelmingly qualified individuals on the committee and asked if the District was utilizing their knowledge to the fullest extent. Mr. Johnson stated not as of yet, but he is sure Mr. Delawalla will include them when projects get underway. Mr. Gourley stated that he would like the committee used as much as possible. Craig Goodyear spoke about a report he saw on 60 Minutes about the "Blue Box" which is another way of conserving energy. He described to the Board what the "Blue Box" was and stated that as a taxpayer he is concerned about money being spent on solar because he feels that it still will not be cost effective. He asked that the Board look into it. Mr. Gourley stated that that is why the District has an Environmental Sustainability Committee. Mike Whatley stated that he is a resident of Diamond Bar and his company provided an RFP to the District. He went on to explain the economics of getting solar. He also encouraged the Board to look at the lifecycle value of the proposals submitted. He stated the lowest cost may not be the best. Ms. Paspalis stated that she was a little concerned because she thought that the District has already submitted an application for the rebate. Further discussion ensued.

12.3 Capital Projects Update: Robert Frost Auditorium; Athletic Complex; Elevators; and Solar

Mr. Delawalla provided the Board with an update on the capital projects and the information on what needs to be done for each project. Ms. Siever had questions about the costs as did Ms. Paspalis. Ms. Paspalis asked if the City has a structural engineer. Mr. Delawalla also spoke about new funding and the application process. Due to the large number of audience members that wanted to speak on this item, Board members agreed to adjust the speaker's time to two minutes. Robert Zirgulis stated that he thinks the projects are overdue. He stated that he brought up the District should consider getting solar panels two years ago. He also stated that he hopes that Mr. Chabola and the students get their athletic complex. Gianna Gray stated that there has been an ongoing discussion on the sports complex. She wonders how the project went from \$1 million to \$8 million. Mrs. Gray stated that she understands that the modernization money comes from bonds, but the bonds come from the State. If the State has no money then how are we going to receive the modernization money? Rania Daily stated that she thought Ms. Paspalis said \$20,000 was going to be spent on solar. She asked if the Board had given that authorization to staff, and if so why? Diana Kunce stated that the list for improvements to Robert Frost was not complete. There are interior structural issues; theatrical lighting problems; sound system issues; and asbestos. Ms. Kunce does not think \$2 million is enough. She also spoke about the solar project, and stated that a large part of the budget goes to the electric bill. Howard Behnken asked about the Board's decision making process. He stated that he looked

at the Minutes of July 12th and there were no specifics. He requested that community members are kept apprised. Tania Fleisher read a letter from Sara Dry who stated concerns about the process. Ms. Dry wrote that she thinks that all Board members should be present when a vote is taken regarding the projects and the contracts. She also wrote that the architect's contract was approved when many community members were on vacation. Elaine Behnken read the second half of Ms. Dry's letter where she states her concerns about the costs for the improvements. Jane Steinberg proposed that the Board slow down the process and seek input from the community. Jim Province stated that the Board should do its due diligence before starting the projects. He also felt that there was bias in the staff presentation and would like to see each project represented fairly. Ken Browning stated that on the surface on of the projects are looking "flat." He asked what would be the cost breakdown. Mark Akita supports the programs and thinks more revenue would be generated. He asked if there was a yearly revenue estimate for the athletic complex, the auditorium, and the solar project. Milo Bechtloff read comments from Bonnie Wacker. Her initial concerns are that the athletic complex was originally \$1 million and the cost has gone up. Ms. Wacker suggested new drinking fountains. She asked if drinking fountains would be part of the improvements. Nancy Goldberg stated that if the District had advised the people in and around the athletic complex they would have had an opportunity to speak then, and the Board would not have to listen to all of the issues at this meeting. Juan Alcala suggested striking the solar project off the list because in the end it would not be cost effective. Dave Sanchez spoke in support of the athletic complex and stated that every student, parents, community members, and staff would benefit from the complex. Jennifer Kochevar spoke on behalf of the athletes. She asked that the Board please renovate the field. Ms. Kochevar stated that she was injured on the field. Jerry Chabola, the Athletic Director, stated that the \$1.2 million mentioned was for the turf on the first field. He thanked the coaches, students and staff that came to the meeting in support of the renovations to the athletic complex. Mr. Chabola stated that education is the main purpose, and the money has been sitting for too many years. He said it is time for Culver City to shine and have an athletic facility that the students, District, and community can be proud of. Jon Barton stated that he seems to understand that the main concern has been communicating with the community. His concern is that there seems to be a decision that needs to be made on either sports or taking care of the environment. He does not think that the divisiveness is a good example for the students. Tom Oliva asked what was the status on the Board's outreach program on the athletic complex? Mr. Zeidman stated that there should be a community meeting set-up some time next month. Casey Chabola stated that he read many e-mails regarding the projects. He said that many people pit one project against the other, and how he supports the athletic complex. He supports the project not just as a coach, but also as a parent and a community member. Mr. Silbiger thanked everyone who came to the meeting. He stated that he respectfully disagrees with Mr. Sanchez. Mr. Silbiger felt that the argument used by Mr. Sanchez, when he mentioned that the athletic complex would be used by more than just the students, could also be stated for the other projects. It worries Mr. Silbiger that the discussion is turning into an "us versus them" discussion. He is excited about all four projects. It is a matter of splitting the money for all of the projects. Mr. Silbiger asked why there are timelines for some projects and not others, and he had additional questions for Mr. Delawalla. Mr. Silbiger would like to move forward with some actionable items if staff does not proceed as directed. Eliud Evans spoke on behalf of the students in regards to the athletic complex and read some quotes from the students in support of the project. Mr. Gourley stated that it was a historical time in Culver City when two very different sides show up for their causes. He stated that the Board and staff will have more information for the community. Mr. Gourley commented that the first problem was the contract for the architect. He never received the information he requested from the attorneys and he wants to re-bid. He thinks the Environmental Sustainability Committee should be used effectively for these projects and he does not want to see Robert Frost renovated without including the plumbing. Mr. Gourley apologized if the information did not get out to the community fast enough, but also stated that the matter has been a topic of discussion for years. He agrees that it is time to move on and asked for support to agendize the bid again. All members agreed. Ms. Siever stated she is concerned that there is a "we versus they" attitude happening. She thinks that the District should go forward with the field and that the Environmental Sustainability Committee should be involved in every aspect of all projects. Ms. Siever stated that we did not find out the cost benefits, and she likes the idea of a detailed cost analysis. Ms. Paspalis thinks that the architect bid is okay. She disagrees with some of the comments made by Mr. Gourley, but does think that the Board/District can be more transparent. Ms. Paspalis stated that all projects can get done, but we just have to collectively decide to get it done. Mr. Zeidman stated that the District needs to spend the money soon. He stated the kids in the audience have not and will not benefit from the money if action is not taken. He stated that we have to put elevators in. The sports complex is not ADA compliant and changes need to be made. Mr. Zeidman

stated that we have to do what we can, but we have to stop fighting. He also does not think that we can give a cost benefit analysis at this time. He is hoping that the students will be using the facilities more and more. Mr. Zeidman asked Mr. Delawalla who wrote the solar RFP. Mr. Delawalla stated it was written by legal counsel who has expertise in solar. Mr. Silbiger asked to agendize the application for rebate if staff does not do it in the next two weeks. Mr. Zeidman and Ms. Siever agreed. Mr. Silbiger also stated he would like to see the specific costs by category for each project. He also instructed the Environmental Sustainability Committee to provide the Board with ways to save on the RFP and to provide information on different size projects and what the costs would be.

13. Recess

The Board recessed at 9:45 p.m. and reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

Mr. Zeidman moved that the Board bypasses the rest of the Information Items and move to the Action Items due to time constraints in using the City Chambers. All Board members agreed.

14. Action Items

14.1 Superintendent's Items

14.1a Approval is Recommended to Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Los Angeles County and Culver City Unified School District

It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Los Angeles County and Culver City Unified School District as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.2 Education Services Items

14.2a Approval is Recommended to Expunge the Expulsion Records of Pupil Services Case #05-09

It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve to Expunge the Expulsion Records of Pupil Services Case #05-09 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.2b Approval is Recommended to Expunge the Expulsion Records of Pupil Services Case #03-08

It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve to Expunge the Expulsion Records of Pupil Services Case #03-08 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.3 Business Items

14.3a Approval is Recommended for the Rejection of Claim

It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board approve the Rejection of Claim as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.3b Approval is Recommended for Budget Transfer

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve Budget Revisions as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.4 Personnel Items

14.4a Approval is Recommended for the Memorandum for Agreement Between Culver City Unified School District and the Culver City Federation of Teachers (CCFT), Association of Classified Employees (ACE) and the Management Association of Culver City Schools (MACCS) Regarding the 2011-2012 School Year Calendar and the Restoration of Two Furlough Days

It was moved by Mr. Zeidman and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve the Memorandum for Agreement Between Culver City Unified School District and the Culver City Federation of Teachers (CCFT), Association of Classified Employees (ACE) and the Management Association of Culver City Schools (MACCS) Regarding the

2011-2012 School Year Calendar and the Restoration of Two Furlough Days as presented. George Laase said the Board's primary responsibility is to act in the best interest of the students, and the furlough days are not in the best interest of the children. Mr. Laase stated that the budget should not be balanced on the backs of our children. Mr. Gourley stated he would be voting no on this item. He feels that the District should have adopted his tiered approach to the budget cuts and not taken furlough days. Ms. Paspalis would like the dates restored that are more on instructional days and not the last two days of the year when there is not much instruction going on. She will also be voting no. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes and 2 – Nays by Mr. Gourley and Ms. Paspalis.

14.4b Approval is Recommended for the Amended 2011-2012 School Year Calendar to Include Restoration of Two Furlough Days

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Silbiger to approve the Amended 2011-2012 School Year Calendar to Include Restoration of Two Furlough Days as presented. The motion was approved with a vote of 3 – Ayes and 2 – Nays by Mr. Gourley and Ms. Paspalis.

14.4c Second Reading and Approval of New Board Policy 4033, Lactation Accommodation

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve New Board Policy 4033, Lactation Accommodation as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

11. Public Recognition

11.3 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Cary Anderson stated that the last meeting of September 13, 2011 was not broadcast. He noted that the address for the City was incorrect on the agenda. Mr. Anderson also spoke about Razor scooters and helmets; and issues with double parking around the school sites.
- Tegan DaRe spoke about a letter her son was given stating that he was kicked out of the middle school because of a school permit.
- Robert Zirgulis suggested having a Farmers Market to raise money for the District.
- Theresa Franke – This person was actually Amanda Copeland who used an alias. She stated that she wanted to see what it was like to use an alias like Mr. Zeidman. She spoke against Mr. Zeidman calling him a fraud, and commented on the District's lack of help for special education students. She feels that the District is using a lot of money to stop her child from receiving special education services.

11.4 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Silbiger thanked Ms. Ehora and staff for assisting him during his visit to Farragut Elementary. He also announced town hall meetings for Karen Bass and Holly Mitchell.
- Ms. Siever reported on her attendance at the Teacher of the Year event and at the Linwood Howe and El Rincon Back to School Nights. She said they were both great and had a good attendance.
- Ms. Paspalis reported on her attendance at Back to School Night and the Education Foundation's rally. She stated that the Board has only received e-mails from Ms. Copeland since the last meeting and has received none from any other parent of a special education student. She wished all observing Roshashana a Happy New Year. Ms. Paspalis also stated her heart goes out to the friends and family of Michelle Woods, and suggested adjourning the meeting in her memory.
- Mr. Gourley stated that this Board celebrates the diversity of the community, and that the Board has never accessed a child's special needs file. He also stated that the Board does not micromanage. Any allegations by Ms. Copeland are false. He stated that they attended a hearing that Ms. Copeland was attending because of her lawsuit against Mr. Ari Noonan. She had sought a temporary restraining order that was denied. It was also found that her defamation action against Mr. Noonan had no merit. He stated that there was just no truth to her allegations. Mr. Gourley reported that the Mock Trial at the middle school has started and more than fifty percent of the students from last year returned.

Mr. Zeidman stated when he writes comments, he writes as Scott Zeidman and not under an alias. He stated that \$135,000 was spent by the District on special education last year. He reported that \$109,000 of that money was spent on one person. He commented that there is an attitude by certain people that by bullying the Board or individual Board members it will get the District to pay for additional services.

11.1 Superintendent’s Report

Mrs. Jaffe reported that the middle school has been re-designated as a School to Watch.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents’ Reports

Ms. Carroll reported on staff development that has taken place in the District.

15. Board Business

15.1 Discussion and Direction to the Superintendent Regarding Rescheduling the November 8, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

Board members discussed a possible date to reschedule the meeting due to the elections on November 8th. The date decided upon was November 15, 2011.

12.5 First Reading of Revised Board Bylaw 9323, Meeting Conduct

Mr. Zeidman allowed Gary Silbiger to make his comments on the Bylaw since the item will be continued to the next meeting. Mr. Silbiger stated that the Board is supposed to encourage the public comment. He began to make his suggestions for the Bylaw and Mr. Zeidman suggested that he forward them to the Superintendent to be incorporated for the next meeting. Gary Silbiger read his suggestions.

15.2 Discussion and Direction to the Superintendent Regarding a Possible Oil Tax Resolution

Robert Zirgulis stated that his support for the Resolution is not about him, but about everyone. He thinks the Board should support the initiative, and stated it will bring more money than Measure EE.

Information Items 12.4, 12.5, 12.6; and Board Business Items 15.2 and 15.3 will be continued to the next Board meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Zeidman, seconded by Ms. Paspalis and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Mr. Zeidman adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m. in memory of Michelle Woods.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary