

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

Meeting:	<u>Regular Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>November 22, 2011</u>
Place:	<u>City Hall (Mike Balkman Chambers) 9770 Culver Boulevard Culver City 90232</u>	Time:	<u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting 6:01 p.m. – Closed Session 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. Mr. Alan Corlin 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 suggested moving items 12.1 and 12.2 to follow item 10.1; and moving item 15.2 up on the agenda combining it with 14.3a. He also suggested pulling item 14.1a for further review and bringing it back to a future meeting. Mr. Silbiger stated he was fine with the amendment as long as we get a timeline for bringing item 14.1a back since it has been postponed a few times. Mrs. Jaffe stated it would come back the first meeting in January. It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Siever to adopt the November 22, 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. Casey Chabola requested that item 9.4 be withdrawn. Ms. Siever requested that item 9.2 be withdrawn. It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.1, 9.3, and 9.5 – 9.7 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 9.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting – November 8, 2011
- 9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations
- 9.5 Classified Personnel Reports No. 8
- 9.6 Culver City Middle School Cheerleading Team to Attend the Jamz Cheerleading National Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada, February 24, 2012
- 9.7 Disposal of Surplus Equipment

9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders and Warrants

Ms. Siever requested this item be withdrawn to inquire about the Purchase Orders 57998, 58003, and 58004. Mr. Delawalla stated that the charges for the Center Theatre Group are for a consultant for AVPA; the second PO is for the consultant for the music program and \$44,000 is paid for by the Education Foundation and the rest are paid for by the PTA. Ms. Siever would like to see the line items identify if it is a “consultant” so the Board can see how much per quarter is paid to consultants. Mr. Delawalla will have to follow-up to see how he can clarify the line items for Ms. Siever’s request.

9.4 Approval is Recommended for the Certificated Personnel Reports No. 8

Mr. Chabola withdrew this item to inquire about the extra assignment for Farragut Elementary. He wanted to know if the report was showing a typographical error. Mrs. Lockhart stated it was not a typographical error because these were the people on the list for the afterschool tutoring.

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board approve items 9.2 and 9.4 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations**10.1 Presentation to the Rotary Club**

Mrs. Jaffe spoke about some of the contributions that the Rotary Club has made to the District. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Ann Murakami, Rotary President.

12. Information Items**12.1 Presentation by Citizens' Oversight Committee**

Crystal Alexander spoke about the audit review and stated that the committee had a favorable review with only one minor finding. She also thanked James Harris for his assistance. Janet Chabola stated that the District needs to be accountable to the City and gave her recommendations. Ms. Siever thanked Ms. Alexander for her presentation and stated that she was happy Ms. Alexander responded to some of the previous questions that she had about projected outcomes. Mr. Silbiger asked how the audit firm was selected, and wondered if it would be beneficial to have a separate auditor for the Measure EE funds. Mr. Delawalla stated that the auditing firms are selected every three years, and that this firm was hired in 2009. He also informed it would probably be more expensive to hire a separate auditor for the parcel tax funds. Ms. Paspalis and Mr. Gourley also thanked Ms. Alexander for her presentation.

12.2 Presentation by Legal Firm Dannis Woliver Kelley Regarding Architect Letter to CCUSD

Mr. Zeidman turned this item over to Mr. Gourley as he was the one who raised the issue of contracting out without a bid. Mr. Santana from the legal firm explained the process of bidding out for architect services and explained that the architect that the District was looking to hire has worked with the District for over nine years. The original bidding for the projects the District is moving forward with were done approximately nine years ago, but there is no original bid on file. Mr. Santana further explained that it was not out of the norm for this to happen and that usually when a District finds an architect that works well with them, they stay with that architect. Gary Silbiger felt it is extremely important to have an open bid. He also felt there was another issue of the Brown Act. Gary Silbiger stated that on the last agenda it was not clearly stated what the item was in regards to the contract. Scott McVarish stated that he was going to help interpret what the District's attorney said. He provided additional information on the bidding process and contracting out. Mrs. Jaffe stated that she spoke with the District's previous Superintendent, Dr. Laura McGaughey, for some background information on the modernization money and projects that were done. Mrs. Jaffe stated that Westberg and White have completed several projects with the District. Mrs. Jaffe also spoke with the previous Assistant Superintendent of Business Services that was employed with the District at the time that some of the projects were done. Karlo Silbiger stated that the law exists for a specific reason, and he is worried that the RFQ is unobtainable after nine years. He stated that it was very troubling that no RFQ could be found and how do we know that it was ever done. Mr. Santana stated that it was his understanding that the District has done other recent projects with the firm so he assumes that the firm has done good work. Karlo Silbiger stated additional concerns, one of which was that it was not done in an open process and he stated he was not aware that the process was done. Ms. Siever asked what percentage of instances has Mr. Santana seen where there is a gap of several years after an RFQ is done. Mr. Santana stated it is common practice and that most school districts will stay with the same architect. Mr. Gourley agreed with some parts that both Gary and Karlo Silbiger stated in the sense that it could have been more transparent. Mr. Gourley stated he does not know these architects or projects that they have done since he has been on the Board. He is concerned that if the Board withdraws from the project that there will be possible litigation. He stated that he has also seen the bidding process taken to the extreme and he shared a story about when he worked at the DMV as an example. Board members thanked Mr. Santana for coming to the meeting.

11. Public Recognition**11.1 Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Jaffe thanked Marla Wolkowitz and Barbara Honig for setting up the meeting with the representatives from Iksan, South Korea, Culver City's Sister City. Mrs. Jaffe also thanked Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley for their commitment to the District, and read some of their accomplishments during their term.

11.2 Assistant Superintendents' Reports

Mr. Delawalla reported that he is in the process of working on the First Interim Report to bring to the next Board meeting.

11.3 Student Representatives' Reports**Middle School Student Representative**

Kaelyn Gsellman, Culver City Middle School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver City Middle School, including ASB not having a meeting and their budget for the Halloween events; the Winter O'Grams going on sale soon; an upcoming visit from Santa Claus to the middle school and the cost of pictures will be three dollars; and KK Audio Ink donated new speakers and P.A. system to the school.

Culver Park Student Representative

Jessica Delgado, Culver Park High School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including student council collecting toys for Toys for Tots; collecting cell phones for soldiers; and students designing school spirit wear.

Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member

Eliud Evans, Student Board Member, reported on activities at Culver City High School, including the Winter Formal event returning in two weeks; a fashion show that took place during lunch time; the visitors from Iksan, South Korea came to ASB and sang for them; and provided a sports update on the teams at the high school.

11.4 Members of the Audience

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Amanda Copeland stated that she has been trying to get records under the Public Records Act. She also requested copies of the paid and unpaid bills for the District's attorneys that have been sent to the District, and asked when she will receive the records. Mrs. Jaffe said she would look into it.
- David Mielke thanked Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley for their service and encouraged them to stay involved with the District. Mr. Mielke provided an update on the union bargaining and the calendar.
- Aileen Zeidman thanked Mr. Gourley for his hard work on the Board, and stated he has always been a driving force. She thanked him for being a mentor to her husband and for his tireless efforts.
- Jamie Wallace stated that we have some of the best teachers and staff. She thanked the Board for reducing the number of permits at the middle school. Ms. Wallace thanked Mr. Zeidman for handling issues intelligently and with much thought. She asked the new Board to please keep the pace that this has set.
- Jerry Chabola thanked Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley for their time and effort that they give to the students. He spoke from the heart in saying that he respects Mr. Zeidman for how much he has done.
- Councilman Jeff Cooper wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He stated that he is thankful for the work that this Board has done in the past two years, including keeping permits down. He thanked Mr. Gourley and he appreciates his friendship. Mr. Cooper stated that Mr. Zeidman has become a good friend and he appreciated all that he has done.

11.5 Members of the Board

Board Members spoke about:

- Mr. Silbiger stated that he attended the Athletic Complex meeting and wished it could have been a little more like the meeting for Robert Frost. He introduced Daisy who is a student at West L.A. College and will be assisting him. Mr. Silbiger thanked Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley for their work and their great leadership. He wanted to highlight effective communication which both Mr. Gourley and Mr. Zeidman exemplify. He also appreciates the accessibility that Mr. Zeidman provided.

- Ms. Siever reported that she attended the Sister City Committee Dinner and stated it was a wonderful experience. She suggested to Daisy that she take her History Class. She addressed Mr. Gourley by saying that they had some lively discussions and she appreciates that. She addressed Mr. Zeidman by stating that he is a wonderful human being and has been one of the best Board Chairs.
- Ms. Paspalis wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. She thanked Mr. Delawalla for all of his hard work and for working on the reserves money so well that the District was able to take back furlough days. She went to the Athletic Field presentation and it was great. She felt it was very useful for the community. Ms. Paspalis thanked Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley for their help and friendship.
- Mr. Gourley stated that the night's reception is the precise reason this meeting would be his last meeting. He feels that the old Board members should not be present when the new Board members come in so that they can have their moment. He hopes that Nancy Goldberg will have his seat at the Board table in the Board Room at the District. He is very happy to continue participating with the Mock Trial Program. Mr. Gourley commented that it was not an easy job to be a Board member, and spoke about the difficulties he experienced with the previous Superintendent Dr. Coté. He also explained why he always votes no on the Valenzuela item which states whether or not there are any students over 20 in the District. He feels the school system is bogged down with paperwork. He read the District's Mission Statement and stated that the one thing he hopes that he has created is integrity. Regarding civility, he stated that we have seen a paranoid schizophrenic attack both him and Mr. Zeidman from the podium and the "village idiot" who did not win this school board election, and that currently there is someone who is complaining against one of the best teachers stating that the teacher is racist. Regarding the Natatorium, Mr. Gourley stated that it should be torn down and whatever building goes up, the District Office should be moved to the site to be right by the teachers so everyone works together. He does not like the way the teachers refer to administration and staff as the "Irving Place People" or "Those People on Irving Place." Then he suggested leasing out the land by downtown Culver City. Mr. Gourley thanked staff that we currently have and he stated that he did not see a change until the last Superintendent was gone. He is sorry that Dr. Coté did not have the same vision for the District as the Board. He also thanked Todd Johnson as the Chair for the Environmental Sustainability Committee.
- Mr. Zeidman stated he thought he would run for the Board because he did not like the direction our schools were going. He spoke about his first meeting with Mr. Gourley, and stated that the accomplishments were of the Board. Mr. Zeidman commented that Mr. Gourley was instrumental with his persistence, knowledge and expertise. He spoke about how Mr. Gourley was key in the caps on enrollment; the Anti-Bullying Task Force; the extension of the Immersion Program; the capital improvement money and the push to spend it. Mr. Zeidman thanked all of the administration for all of their hard work.

13. Recess

The Board recessed at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at 9:12 p.m.

14. Action Items

14.1 Superintendent's Items

14.1a Third Reading and Approval of Board Bylaw 9320, Meeting Conduct

This item was pulled from the agenda.

14.1b Appointment of One Member to the Citizens' Oversight Committee

Board members made their selections of the new member. After selections it was down to three applicants: Michael Arena, George Laase, and Linda Rosenberg. After another round of selections the final selection was Michael Arena. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board appoint Mr. Michael Arena as the newest member to the Citizens' Oversight Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.2 Education Services Items

14.2a Approval is Recommended for the Stipulated Expulsion of Pupil Services Case #02-11-12

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board approve the stipulated expulsion of Case #02-11-12 until November 22, 2012 and that the student be referred to a Community Day School as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.2b Approval is Recommended for the Stipulated Expulsion of Pupil Services Case #03-11-12

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Siever that the Board approve the stipulated expulsion of Case #03-11-12 through November 22, 2012 and that the student be referred to a Community Day School as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.3 Business Services Items

Mr. Zeidman decided to combine item 14.3a with the Board Business item 15.2

14.3a Approval is Recommended for Capital Projects and

15.2 Discussion and Direction Regarding the Process and Communication for Future Capital Projects

Mr. Zeidman had Ms. Paspalis read the statements that were submitted by Paula Clarkson, Kim Feinberg and Kathy Fukinanga. Nancy Goldberg read a letter from Andy Alexander in support of not passing the present proposal for capital projects. Jim Province thanked Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley for their contributions. He urged the Board to get all the information needed before approving the budget for the projects. He wants them to make sure to proceed with caution. Howard Behnken thanked Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley for their work. He spoke on behalf of the ACE – Community. He stated their concerns are that the Board does not have all of the necessary information and asked the Board to vote no. Sarah Dry commented on the modernization funds. She stated that they heard the funds could also be used for solar, and urged the Board to vote no. Jenny Manriquez commented on the scope of the work. She stated that there has been no connection between the scope of the work and the projects. Ms. Manriquez stated that until there is a detailed statement she thinks it would be irresponsible for the Board to approve. Jim Frohna spoke about his focus which is on the Robert Frost Auditorium, and he spoke about the other improvements. Susan Collins thanked Mr. Gourley and Mr. Zeidman for their work on the Board. She introduced Mr. Jamil Soucar who is in Construction Management. She stated the real art to this item is the way the motion is written. She does not think the community or the Board has enough specifics to vote. Mr. Soucar stated that he looked at the scope of the work and provided the Board with examples of other places that have done similar projects. He feels the Board would be paying too much for the project and provided some suggestions. Rania Daily thanked the Board for the meeting with the architects. She stated that after speaking with one of the architects she thinks that there could also be a water issue. She further explained the possible issues with the water drainage having a synthetic field. She does not feel the Board should vote on the projects at this time. Meghan Sahli-Wells stated the Board has a room of intelligent people raising red flags. She thinks there could be other environmental issues that need to be addressed before approving the projects.

Todd Johnson thanked Mr. Zeidman and Mr. Gourley for the years of service. Ken Browning thanked Mr. Gourley and Mr. Zeidman for their service. He is not in support of the Board approving the capital improvements at this time and told everyone they should ask themselves if they have questions. If so, it is not the time to approve. Ken Palmer stated his concerns about a change in use of the field with the renovations. He thinks the improvements are great, but there are traffic issues on Harter. He also questioned the 4th of July activities that normally take place if there is synthetic turf. Tom Crump stated he is concerned about the adversarial feelings at the meetings. He is in support of the projects. Christine Tilman commented that not every child is good in curriculum and sports have been there for them. She gave examples of professional athletes that worked through their learning disabilities. She spoke in support of the athletic field. Rick Prieto stated that the facilities are in much need of improvements. He stated that the bleachers are the same as when he moved here in 1969. He is in support of the athletic complex improvements. Rebecca Garcia-Prieto spoke about how she attended the schools in Culver City and is in support of the athletic field capital improvements. Dr. Luther Henderson spoke in favor of moving forward with the projects. He stated that the improvements have been discussed for many years and recommends moving on with them. Scott McVarish thanked the Superintendent and the Chair for finally spending the money. He stated you have great staff and they need to be accountable. He told the Board they need to direct staff to provide more detailed information on the costs of each project. Jon Barton stated that the budget does not make sense. He asked to put off the budget, but he thinks that everyone is in support of the improvements. The budget needs work. Janet Chabola stated that the projects have been discussed since the 1990s when there was

Measure T. She gave the history of these were the last projects that remained from years ago when CBAC had a list of improvements for the District. All the improvements were done except for these last items. She spoke in support in the athletic field capital improvements. Jerry Chabola stated that these four projects needed to be done. He said he counted 175 cars on the black top when four different activities were taking place. He also confirmed that several of the coaches had input on the field as did the students. Mr. Silbiger stated he was a little unclear about the motion. He was not sure if the Board was voting on the projects, or including the budget. Mr. Delawalla stated the vote would be to approve the projects. Mr. Silbiger stated if there was in interest by the Board he would like to separate the motions. The Board agreed. Mr. Silbiger stated he would be supporting the first part of the vote for the projects, but he has concerns about the budget. Mr. Silbiger felt that the process could have possibly been further along. He stated that on February 15th the Board decided on the projects. Had there been the community meetings, and staff sat down and pushed through some of the process, we could be further along and voting on a budget tonight. It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Mr. Gourley to approve Capital Projects. The motion was unanimously approved. It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Ms. Paspalis to approve the budget for the projects for the purposes of discussion. Mr. Silbiger said there are few things that he requested which were 1) The Board needs information to approve the budget, 2) Information on State Modernization Grants, and 3) Information on the two State funding sources such as if they will still be available. Without that information, he feels the Board should not vote on a budget. Mr. Gourley stated he has some of the same concerns. He thinks approving the budget and then trying to undo it will make the project longer. Ms. Paspalis spoke about how long the topic of improvements has been discussed. She brought her file in and showed the audience how thick the file was. Ms. Paspalis is ready to move forward. Ms. Siever stated that her main concern is about the students and their safety. She will be voting yes. Mr. Silbiger would like to make substitute motion. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Zeidman clarified what the motion should be. It was moved by Mr. Silbiger and seconded by Ms. Siever to approve the budget as listed, however, if we do not find funding outside of the original \$2.3 million allocated than another \$1.5 million will be allocated for solar paneling.

14.4 Personnel Items

14.4a Second Reading and Approval of Revised Administrative Regulation 4032, Reasonable Accommodation

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Mr. Silbiger that the Board approve the Revised Administrative Regulation 4032, Reasonable Accommodation as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

14.4b Approval is Recommended for the 2012/2013 School Year Calendar

Jerry Chabola asked to start the school year sometime in August since CIF has changed the start dates. He stated there are teachers at the high school that are not happy with these dates. Mr. Chabola also commented on the start dates for schools surrounding the District and the conflicts that may arise. Rachel Snyder talked about the calendar and felt there needed to be a better dialogue. Mr. Zeidman said he cannot approve this calendar. He said the calendars are not about the students. He said they are about a small group of individuals that are more concerned about their vacation times. Mr. Gourley thanked Ms. Snyder for staying so late. He said what he was hearing was that she was not being heard by her union. Mr. Mielke explained how the Calendar Committee came to be, and how the process works. Liz Kinnon asked if anyone surveyed the kids. Eric Mitchell commented that students were not surveyed. Further discussion ensued. The Board agreed that staff should have another discussion on the calendar and bring it back to the Board for approval.

15. Board Business

15.1 Discussion and Direction Regarding Possible Special Board Meeting in December

The Board decided no additional meeting was necessary.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Gourley, seconded by Ms. Paspalis and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Mr. Zeidman adjourned the meeting at 10:45 p.m.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary