

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

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b><u>Regular Meeting</u></b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b><u>February 14, 2012</u></b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b><u>District Administration Office</u></b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b><u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u></b>
	<b><u>4034 Irving Place</u></b>		<b><u>6:01 p.m. – Closed Session</u></b>
	<b><u>Culver City 90232</u></b>		<b><u>7:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u></b>

**Board Members Present**

**Karlo Silbiger, President**  
**Katherine Paspalis, Esq., Vice President**  
**Patricia Siever, Professor, Clerk**  
**Laura Chardiet, Member**  
**Nancy Goldberg, Member**

**Staff Members Present**

**Patricia W. Jaffe, Superintendent**  
**Ali Delawalla**  
**Eileen Carroll**

**Call to Order**

Board President Mr. Silbiger called the meeting of the Culver City Unified School District Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Public Comment on Closed Session Items**

Susan Osbourne requested an explanation of expenditures on attorney fees regarding litigation for special education students. She spoke about the funds that the District has spent to litigate against Lila Copeland. Ms. Osbourne asked the Board to let her know when the litigation was to end against Miss Copeland.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:05 p.m. and reconvened the public meeting at 7:16 p.m. with all Board members in attendance. Jim Provence led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Report from Closed Session**

Mr. Silbiger 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.

**7. Public Hearing**

**7.1 Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Re-Opener Collective Bargaining Proposal to the Culver City Federation of Teachers (CCFT) for the 2011-2012 School Year**

Mr. Silbiger opened the Public Hearing at 7:18 p.m. David Mielke commented about the bargaining process and stated that CCFT's proposal has already gone out for review by the community. He commented that the District's proposal did not contain much information. Mr. Mielke stated that the union wants to bring the community in and encouraged the Board in the future to submit a more "meaningful" proposal. Mr. Silbiger closed the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m.

**8. Adoption of Agenda**

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Ms. Paspalis that the Board adopt the February 14, 2012 agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**9. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Silbiger called the Consent Agenda and asked if any member of the audience or the Board wished to withdraw any item. Amanda Copeland requested that item 9.1 be withdrawn. Ms. Siever requested that item 9.2 be withdrawn. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Chardiet to approve Consent Agenda Items 9.3 – 9.9 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 9.3 Acceptance of Gifts – Donations
- 9.4 Certificated Personnel Reports No. 11
- 9.5 Classified Personnel Reports NO. 11

- 9.6 Acceptance of Enrollment Report  
9.7 Resolution #8/2011-2012(HR), Teacher Education Code Approvals  
9.8 Resolution #9/2011-2012(HR), Teacher Education Code Approvals  
9.9 Resolution #10/2011-2012(HR), Teacher Education Code Approvals

**9.1 Approval is Recommended for the Minutes of Regular Meeting – December 13, 2011 and January 24, 2012**

Ms. Copeland asked that this item be withdrawn for a number of revisions which she quickly read and said that she would send the information to Ms. Williams. She also stated that in item 12.3 she would like corrected that Ms. Cooper did not refuse her child an IEP. Ms. Copeland had stated that there was no ADR, otherwise there would be no litigation going on right now. Because of the many additions that Ms. Copeland requested Mr. Silbiger asked that the January 24, 2012 come back for approval. Ms. Paspalis also requested that for clarification in item 9.1 on the January 24, 2012 Minutes where it states “Ms. Paspalis suggested that Mr. Silbiger and Ms. Goldber recuse themselves from voting on special education litigation issues...” to instead have it state “...voting on one special education litigation issue...”

**9.2 Approval is Recommended for Purchase Orders**

Ms. Siever inquired about language in the Purchase Orders where it says “increases.” Mr. Delawalla explained that it is an estimate of the costs for the rest of the school year. Amanda Copeland stated she noticed the absence of any Purchase Orders for the law firm Fagen, Friedman, and Fulfrost. Mr. Delawalla stated that he has not received a bill from them yet.

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Ms. Paspalis to approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting – December 13, 2011 and the Purchase Orders as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**10. Awards, Recognitions and Presentations - None**

**11. Public Recognition**

**11.1 Superintendent’s Report**

Mrs. Jaffe addressed a request that she had previously received and explained how to file a complaint against a District employee. She thanked everyone for attending the emergency meeting that she set up earlier in the day. To clear up misinformation in the community Mrs. Jaffe stated that parents are always welcome to volunteer in the District, and that the Board will be discussing the issue of parent funded aides in the classrooms. She commended the Environmental Sustainability Committee who has been working hard at beginning a District-wide recycling program. She provided information on the Green 5 Program which is being piloted at Linwood Howe Elementary. Mr. Jaffe mentioned that there has been discussion on transitional kindergarten, and trying to find an appropriate site for Culver Park, so that El Marino can become full-time. Mrs. Jaffe also reported on her attendance at the Superintendents Symposium in Monterey, California. She then briefly explained why she was announcing that she would be retiring in June.

**11.2 Assistant Superintendents’ Reports**

Ms. Carroll announced that the District received the grant that would allow all of the elementary schools and the middle school to benefit from the Olweus anti-bullying program. She also provided information on professional development in the District.

Mr. Delawalla gave a brief presentation on the Governor’s proposal and its impact on the District.

**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 an update on the dance last month; ASB is hosting the Pennies for Patients Fundraiser; Valentine’s Day activities; the Jog-A-Thon on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>; and the book faire.

**Culver Park Student Representative**

Jessica Delgado, Culver Park High School Student Representative, reported on activities at Culver Park High School, including the second HeArt Project workshop started this week and the theme. Miss Delgado provided information on the schools newest youth mentoring program being provided by Sony Pictures in partnership with Youth Mentoring Connections. Ten male students will be escorted to Sony Pictures every other Wednesday to for group and individual sessions with male Sony employees who have completed the mentor training which she will be a great opportunity for the young men at Culver Park.

**Culver City High School Student Representative/Student Board Member**

Eliud Evans, Student Board Member, was not present.

Because there was a large number of speakers Mr. Silbiger asked Board members if they would like to reduce the speaker time to two minutes. All Board members agreed.

**11.4 Members of the Audience**

Members of the audience spoke about:

- Alan Elmont recalled a situation from when he was President of the Farragut Fan Club. He stated there was a Farragut Fan Club employee at the school and the District required the employee to become an employee of the District. He detailed how the District and the Fan Club handled that situation and does not think that it is beneficial to the volunteer nor to the students. He encouraged the Board to discourage changing the status quo.
- Madeline Ehrlich commented that the Adjunct Program at El Marino has been very successful. She referenced an article that Mr. Silbiger wrote about the Adjunct Program where she stated that he sounded as if he was speaking on behalf of the Board. She reminded him of his duties and limits as a Board member.
- Bryan Chausland clarified that audience members were here for the students. The people that work in ACE work for the community. The Adjunct Program is great and the parent volunteers are great. He commented that the union should fix something that does not work.
- Ellie Dawson stated she is heavily involved with fundraising at Linwood Howe and spoke about the difficulties of fundraising where there is not concrete goal. Ms. Dawson spoke about the importance of having the instructional aides in the classroom.
- Gina Marie Walker stated that she was the current ALLEM President at El Marino. She shared how she found out the information on the issue that was arising regarding the adjuncts, and stated she was told not to mention anything. She did not feel that was right.
- Leslie Johnson, a teacher at Culver Park High School, stated she was representing the students at Culver Park. Ms. Johnson informed the Board that the school has been at their current location for thirty years. She spoke about the school and what it means to the students.
- Karen Lanier, a teacher at Culver Park High School, asked the Board to reconsider their decision to relocate the school to bungalows at the middle school. She listed items that would need to be addressed before moving the school to the bungalows.
- Stephanie Bentsvi stated that she has been at Culver Park for three years. She was a student at Linwood Howe, the middle school, and the high school. She is now a teacher at Culver Park and she spoke about the needs of the students.
- Jeannine Wisnosky Stehlin stated that she was really impressed by the number of parents in the room. She spoke about the Booster Clubs and how people do not usually see the faces behind it. Boosters are not a threat. The students should not think that their parents are a threat to the District.
- Ivona Holland, parent volunteer and the ALLEM Treasurer, stated that if the adjuncts had to be unionized it would end the program. The parents can only raise so much money.
- Paul Walsleben, parent at Linwood Howe, stated he has spoken with both Mrs. Jaffe and Mrs. Lockhart and discussions have been positive regarding parent-funded aides in the classroom. He stated that we wanted to raise fund to help our students and raise the API scores which has been accomplished. He encouraged the Board to continue with negotiations.

- David Mielke congratulated Mrs. Jaffe on her decision to retire and stated she will be missed. He was asked to sign a petition for the Millionaires Tax. He commented that he previously worked at Culver Park and if you looked at the WASC reviews for the school there were always commendations. He urged the Board to look at other options rather than moving the school. He suggested using the funds that were to be used for the athletic field and Robert Frost to instead be used for an actual school such as Culver Park.
- Marie Hackett stated that the adjuncts are a key part to students learning. It is important to have the adjuncts in the room especially in a dual language program.
- Steve Levin thinks the union has a right to speak on behalf of its members. The parents are speaking on behalf of the students. He asked the Board to be directly involved with the process.
- Sarah Kocher, one of the Vice Presidents of ALLEM, stated the adjuncts are playing the same role as parent volunteers but able to assist in the target language. She tried to clarify the duties of the adjuncts.
- Scott McVarish gave an example of how the District is basically turning down services if they unionize the adjuncts. He stated that the school would lose 40% to 70% of services. He also stated that the group is also talking about equity. It is not just about El Marino, it is about all of the schools.
- Tori Kitagawa stated she does not understand furlough days and taking education from the kids. She spoke in support of keeping the adjuncts.
- Allison Herbst who is a room parent at El Marino spoke about the adjuncts at the school and how important they are.
- Tom Crunk spoke about the impact to the District if there were no volunteers. He stated it is clear that the Board needs to agendaize this policy and show that they support and protect the volunteer programs.
- Patrick Meighan asked the Board to please let us help our own kids in the classroom. He asked the Board to show some leadership.
- Jennifer Merlis stated that it is important to allow the parents to fund ALL EM. She asked the Board to please allow parents to continue to fund adjuncts in the Language Immersion Program.
- Todd Johnson, Chairman of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, informed the Board that tomorrow morning the committee is launching the Green 5 Program at Linwood Howe Elementary. He stated that it is a great collaboration with the Board, the District, the students, and parents. High school students will put on a skit at the assembly.
- Liz Mejia spoke on behalf of teachers in the classroom. She stated that it is always great to have another body in the class to assist.

### **11.5 Members of the Board**

Board Members spoke about:

- Ms. Chardiet stated she has been involved in the PTA for many years, and President of the PTA Council. She stated that she know that both she and Mrs. Jaffe are very supportive of the parents in the District.
- Ms. Goldberg stated that there has to be ways for the Board to facilitate the discussion to keep the Adjuncts Program.
- Ms. Siever commended the Transition Program that was implemented for special education students. She reported on the LACSTA meeting where they spoke about a Resolution regarding the 2012 Tax Initiative. There was a lot of discussion on the issues and she noticed that many people abstained at the time to vote because they did not have enough information. Ms. Siever asked how much the anti-bullying grant was. Ms. Carroll stated it was \$15,000 per school.
- Ms. Paspalis reported that she attended the Spelling Bee, and that many of the District's sports teams are going to the CIF Finals. She also attended a concert at the high school that the Gay Men's Chorus put on and it was great. Ms. Paspalis stated that she is here for our students, and the rest is "a lot of paper." She is concerned about the article that Mr. Silbiger put on The Frontpage Online.com. She was directed to the article by a few people and they are asking her who the "we" is. She stated that it is certainly not the Board because the Board has not discussed the matter. She hopes it gets cleared up quickly.

- Mr. Silbiger reported on his attendance at the California Democratic Party Convention and the issues that were discussed such as over-testing. Also discussed was a proposed bill called the Middle-Class Scholarship Fund which would be written for families who make under a \$100,000 per year. These scholarships would pay for a percentage of their college tuition. Mr. Silbiger asked the Board to consider discussing the following within the next couple of months. 1) Asking the solar consultant to come and make a presentation; 2) An update from staff on the middle school Immersion Program; and 3) Full day program at El Marino and moving Culver Park's location. He thanked everyone who came and stated the one thing that Ms. Ehrlich did not explain about his article was that he also mentioned how much he valued having aides in the classroom when he was in school.

## **12. Information Items**

### **12.1 First Reading of Revised Administrative Regulation 5111.1, Students – District Residency**

Board members reviewed the Administrative Regulation and provided their suggestions for any revisions. Mr. Drew Sotelo responded to questions from the Board. The Administrative Regulation will return for approval.

## **13. Recess**

The Board recessed at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

## **14. Action Items**

### **14.1 Superintendent's Items - None**

### **14.2 Education Services Items**

#### **14.2a Third Reading and Approval of Administrative Regulation 6154, Instruction – Homework/Makeup Work**

Alan Elmont stated that teachers should be “required” and not “encouraged” to post the homework online. Ms. Chardiet thinks that the Administrative Regulation has grown into a monster with all of the changes. Further discussion ensued and Board members went through it and made revisions. It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Ms. Goldberg that the Board approve the Administrative Regulation 6154, Instruction – Homework/Makeup Work as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **14.2b Second Reading and Approval of Revised Administrative Regulation/Board Policy 5116.1, Students – Intradistrict Open Enrollment**

Board members discussed the Administrative Regulation and made small revisions. It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Ms. Chardiet that the Board approve Revised Administrative Regulation 5116.1, Students – Intradistrict Open Enrollment as amended. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **14.2c Second Reading and Approval of Revised Administrative Regulation 5117, Students – Interdistrict Attendance**

It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Chardiet that the Board approve the Revised Administrative Regulation 5117, Students – Interdistrict Attendance as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **14.3 Business Services Items**

### **14.3a Approval is Recommended for the Contract between Culver City Unified School District and Jack Schreder & Associates for Developer Fee Justification Study**

Ms. Goldberg asked why the fees to present information to the Board were not included. The quoted price does not include the fee. Mr. Delawalla explained why we wanted the study done. Further discussion ensued. It was moved by Ms. Paspalis and seconded by Ms. Chardiet that the Board approve the Contract between Culver City Unified School District and Jack Schreder & Associates for Developer Fee Justification Study as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

**14.4 Personnel Items**

**14.4a Approval is Recommended for the Adoption of the Culver City Unified School District Re-Opener Bargaining Proposal to the Culver City Federation of Teachers for the 2011/2012 School Year**

It was moved by Ms. Siever and seconded by Ms. Chardiet that the Board adopt the Culver City Unified School District’s Re-Opener Collective Bargaining Proposal to the Culver City Federation of Teachers (CCFT) for the 2011-2012 School Year. The motion was unanimously approved.

**15. Board Business**

**15.1 Recommendations for the Board Regarding Capital Improvement Projects**

Elaine Behnken spoke on behalf of the ACE Community and stated that they agreed with the recommendations presented except for having one community member. They would like to have three. The Board was encouraged to emulate the El Segundo District’s model used for their community members participation in their capital improvements. Ms. Siever asked how El Segundo formed their committee. Todd Johnson confirmed that their Board did not assign the committee. Mrs. Jaffe informed the Board about her and Mr. Delawalla’s visit to El Segundo and their discussion with their Superintendent. Ms. Siever confirmed that the ACE Community is an Ad Hoc committee and she felt that their recommendations sounded more like a directive to the Board. Ms. Siever suggested that there be a hearing for issues that involve the community. Discussion ensued about making the ACE Community a sub-committee of CBAC. Alan Elmont clarified the duties of CBAC, and stated that CBAC is not for project management. He stated that CBAC has prioritized projects in the past which are the ones that are currently moving forward. Further discussion ensued. Ms. Paspalis stated that there should be a timeframe for the committee, a number of members, and several changes in the language. Mr. Silbiger suggested agendizing for further consideration and that another issue is having Project Managers and how many.

**15.2 Board Goals and Objectives Update**

The Board agreed to continue this item to the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, it was moved by Ms. Siever, seconded by Ms. Paspalis and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Mr. Silbiger adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m. in memory John Gerloff, brother of Nancy Gerloff Burne; Craig McGaughey, brother-in-law of former Superintendent Dr. Laura McGaughey; and Barbara Rona, former District instructional assistant.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

On: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary