

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

Meeting:	<u>Special Meeting</u>	Date:	<u>June 26, 2008</u>
Place:	<u>District Administration Office</u>	Time:	<u>6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting</u>
	<u>4034 Irving Place</u>		
	<u>Culver City 90232</u>		

Board Members Present

Dana Russell, D.D.S., President
Jessica Beagles-Roos, Ph.D., Vice President
Saundra Davis, M.A., Clerk
Steven Gourley, Member
Scott Zeidman, Esq., Member

Staff Members Present

Myrna Rivera Coté, Ed.D., Superintendent
David El Fattal, M.B.A.
Sara Fields
Patricia Jaffe, M.S.

Call to Order

Board President Dr. Russell called the meeting of the Culver City Unified School District Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. with all Board members in attendance. Dr. Beagles-Roos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Dr. Beagles-Roos and seconded by Mr. Gourley that the Board adopt the agenda of June 26, 2008 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Beagles-Roos moved that the time be extended for the public to speak until all of the speaker cards were gone. Mrs. Davis suggested that we keep the time at three minutes unless additional cards were received throughout the meeting. It was moved by Mr. Gourley and seconded by Mrs. Davis to extend the time per speaker if necessary. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Information Items

3.1 Presentation on Student Enrollment, Inter and Intra District Student Attendance Transfers

Dr. Coté gave an introduction as to what topics this meeting was to address such as statistics on elementary and secondary intra and inter-district permits. Drew Sotelo, Administrator of Child Welfare and Attendance, and Rose Ecker, Director of Pupil Services gave a Power Point presentation addressing the types of permits that the District allows, and the statistics on each permit. They also provided information on enrollment, the process for renewing and revocation of a permit. Mr. El Fattal, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, provided information on the funding that District has received from accepting permits.

The following audience members commented:

- Robert Gray stated that it was not about getting rid of existing permits or not accepting permits anymore. The issue was not taking so many permits at the Middle School level. He would like to see permits only at the elementary level and have those students flow through the system.
- Bonnie Wacker was nervous about sending her daughter to the Middle School, and discussed how she went to the school and was shocked by her evaluation of the bathrooms; how she likes the idea of the intra-district transfers, and thanked Dr. Coté for starting to differentiate each school so that they have their own identity; in favor of reducing inter-district permits at the secondary school levels, and would like an increase in the rules and policies in their acceptance.
- Mike King thanked the Board for having the meeting and listening to the community; he expressed that there should be something in the enrollment policy that is more encouraging to the quality of education.
- Alan Elmont stated that the Developer Fee Study does not give an accurate number of capacity, and inquired as to how many desks can each classroom accommodate; inquired as to what is the optimal number for class size from an educational standpoint, and if the Board knows those numbers can they come up with a policy.

- Karlo Silbiger spoke about the financial impact of increasing or decreasing permits; the number of programs that would be cut if permits were reduced; not noticing any differences between permit and resident students like it is being portrayed; suggested smaller learning communities.
- Roger Maxwell spoke about overcrowding at the Middle School and High School; discussed how the population of Culver City has remained constant for 40 years and gave history on students in the District and permits; read a piece from the L.A. Times on LAUSD having smaller schools.
- John Cohn spoke about him being the father of two children in the District that are on permits; that there seems to be greater expectations for the students on permits; protecting the integrity of the schools; having stringent criteria for accepting students on permits.
- Dan O'Brien thanked staff and the Board for assembling the meeting; thinks that the District is settling on the way that we educate and parents should not be satisfied with being average, they should want our District to be the best; believes there are other ways to bring money into the District such as a parcel tax and challenged the community to be creative with funding ideas.
- George Laase commented on local district laws that effect the District, and what effect Proposition 13 has; family housing being limited due to the lack of affordable housing; the Board and the community need to push for better City housing policies to bring in younger families; permit students possibly not having the same pride in the community.
- Jason Harris expressed his frustration because his permit was revoked and wished that parts of the policy were changed; thinks the District is great.
- Gustavo Cruz who was just promoted from the Middle School commented that he was attracted to the District because of its diversity, but feels that there needs to be work done on the criteria for permit acceptance.
- Marilyn Liu who was just promoted from the Middle School commented that most permit students have bad grades and behavioral problems; she enjoys taking classes with students that are academically successful.
- Jeff Cooper thanked the Board for the Special Meeting; enjoyed meeting new people through his children's activities, but has noticed that less of his children's friends are around because they are not attending the Middle School and High School; thinks both schools are overcrowded and the level of education is suffering.
- Jeannine Stehlin commented that she is concerned about the quality of the schools in the District and she is in favor of smaller schools; there is a perception in the community that Culver City is taking in any student with a permit just to obtain money.
- Judy Richter inquired as to if there has been a study to decipher if there is adequate seating in the cafeteria to accommodate the students because she has seen students eating on the grass; has the District done a study to find out how many bodies can comfortably move through the hallways.
- Neal Tabachnick commented on how ironic it is that Culver City has this issue involving permits and enrollment since it is small and is accountable; the District is failing the students; the need for higher standards for permit students; not overcrowding our schools.
- Denise Clary suggested moving sixth grade back to the elementary level to alleviate overcrowding at the Middle School; the teachers are great, but there are disciplinary issues.
- Keight Jones commented that Culver City is a great District and he voted on the Bond Measure to help repair the schools; wanted to know what was the total enrollment that the schools were originally built to accommodate; would like to adopt a permit policy such as El Segundo's policy.
- Becky Stephan commented that students with lower GPAs still have value in the District.
- Dana Russell read a statement from Larry Zeidman where he questioned if portable bathrooms were also put into the schools when the portable classrooms came; needing a zero tolerance policy regarding permit students; requested to consult with the Fire Department and a developer on a capacity study; and gave commendations to Mrs. Davis for addressing the topic of the lack of vocational classes in the District
- Bernie Hornbastel thanked the Board for the Special Meeting and stated he was in support of a parcel tax.

Members of the Board

Dr. Beagles-Roos asked several questions regarding the presentation which were responded by Mrs. Ecker and Mr. Sotelo. She was in favor of having a discussion what the District would need to do to have smaller class sizes and smaller school size.

Mr. Gourley stated he had not heard anything that he disagreed with; gave notice to the four City Council Members that were present and said he would not have run if were not for the issue of permits; and asked for clarification on the PERT permits and revoking them. He stated that PERT permits would be an area for reform.

Mrs. Davis felt that all of her questions had been answered by the presentation; she addressed the fact that the students on permits have higher GPAs and drop out rates; she was in agreement to smaller school, but does not agree that it would mean smaller class sizes; Culver City not having the capacity to build additional schools; the District needs to address the issues that they can actually do something about, and not overload meetings with information that does not bear to be true.

Mr. Zeidman thanked everyone for attending including the City Council Members and Mayors; he sees the issue being not overcrowding our schools, and not it being residents against permit families; suggested to drop some of the permits and replace with a parcel tax.

Dr. Russell thanked everyone for attending and commented that his children came through the Culver City school system and are going on to do wonderful things; the problems that are being stated at the Middle School have been an on and off issue for the past twelve years; what the notification process would be if the District was reducing class size and school size; in agreement with a parcel tax; and he would be interested in implementing a more stringent GPA policy for permit students.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Zeidman, seconded by Mrs. Davis and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. Board President Dr. Russell adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Approved: _____
Board President

Superintendent

On: _____
Date

Secretary