



**CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**South Building Board Room**  
**1402 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, May 7, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**1. CLOSED SESSION**

**A. Public Comments**

At 5:00 p.m., President Connolly announced that there were no comment cards submitted and the Board then convened into Closed Session.

- B. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), Case OAH 2019031028**
- C. Consideration of Student Discipline, Education Code Section 48900, et seq. (Expulsions)**
- D. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(1), Case OAH 2019031033**
- E. Stipulated Award in accordance with provisions in Government Code Section 54956.95 – insurance pooling, tort liability losses; public liability losses; workers' compensation liability; Stipulated Award request for COEK-004368 and COEM-004498**
- F. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), Case CV 17-2629 SS**
- G. Public Employee Appointment/Employment, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b). Title: Principal, Madrona Elementary**
- H. Labor Negotiations, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. The agency negotiator is Jeanne Valentine, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources. Employee Organization: California School Employees Association (CSEA)**

Closed Session ended at 5:42 p.m.

**2. OPEN SESSION**

**A. Call the Meeting to Order and Roll Call**

Call to Order and Roll Call: President Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: President Connolly, Vice President Cindy Goldberg, Sandee Everett, Bill Gorback, and Jenny Fitzgerald.

Administration present: Dr. Mark McLaughlin, Superintendent; Victor Hayek, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services; Jeanne Valentine, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources; Lou Lichtl, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services and Lisa Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

Mrs. Everett made the motion to approve the Agenda with the amendment to pull Consent Agenda items 4L, 4O, 4R and 4AA, seconded by Mrs. Goldberg. President Connolly asked if

there was any discussion, which there was none. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**D. Announcements from Closed Session and Open Session Procedures**

President Connolly announced that the following items were discussed in Closed Session:

**1B. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), Case OAH 2019031028**

Mr. Gorbach made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald.

**Motion carried: 5-0.**

**1C. Consideration of Student Discipline, Education Code Section 48900, et seq. (Expulsions)**

**1D. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(1), Case OAH 2019031033**

Mrs. Fitzgerald made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Goldberg.

**Motion carried: 5-0.**

**1E. Stipulated Award in accordance with provisions in Government Code Section 54956.95 – insurance pooling, tort liability losses; public liability losses; workers' compensation liability; Stipulated Award request for COEK-004368 and COEM-004498**

**1F. Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1), Case CV 17-2629 SS**

Mrs. Goldberg made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Gorbach.

**Motion carried: 5-0.**

**1G. Public Employee Appointment/Employment, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b). Title: Principal, Madrona Elementary**

**1H. Labor Negotiations, Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. The agency negotiator is Jeanne Valentine, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources. Employee Organization: California School Employees Association (CSEA)**

**E. Reports from Student Reporters**

Century Academy: Nick Capobianco

Conejo Valley High School: Lucy Sussman (not present)

Newbury Park High School: Thomas Kitchell

Thousand Oaks High School: Haylee Dahlgren (not present)

Westlake High School: Scott Pugh

Students reported on: graduations, proms, senior grad nights, picnics and activities, promotions, the introduction of next year's student reporters, rallies, drama productions, choir and band concerts, annual boat races, the Special Olympics, dancing tryouts, and offered thanks to the Board and District administration for the opportunity to report.

**F. Reports from Parent Support Organizations**

**GATE District Advisory Council (GATE DAC):** Subha Tholudur gave a shout out to all of our incredible teachers who work so hard to create a climate of engagement, motivation and high academic standards in meeting the needs of the gifted and talented population. She spoke about successes, including the addition of Stefanie Caswell, GATE Teacher on Special Assignment,



organization of the GATE program, professional development for teachers, fun Friday activities, opportunities for students to discover interests and connect with like-minded students, the importance of partners of GATE DAC for exploratory activities, and lack of focus on gate students at the school sites. She also encouraged high school collaboration to provide teachers with specific training and certification, spoke about a measurement to gauge success, equitable access to engaging activities and focusing on empowering the students of today.

**Conejo Schools Foundation (CSF):** Denise Reader, Vice President of Community Support for CSF, spoke about the success of the All-District Music Festival, with 2,970 students attending for chorus with an audience of 6,030 and 1,130 students for strings with an audience of 1,880. She thanked the community partners, CVUSD, Conejo Recreation and Park District, the City of Thousand Oaks and the Arts Council, as well as the volunteers, student performers and those who helped produce and direct. Denise spoke about the upcoming All-District Band Festival in May and the CSF Annual State of the Schools Event on October 15 at the CLU Lundryng Events Center.

#### **G. Comments - Public**

President Connolly asked if there were any public speakers, which there were two comment cards submitted.

- Alana Bond yielded time to Colleen Briner-Schmidt.
- Colleen Briner-Schmidt spoke in reference to the unions and the services that they offer to the employees and the District.
- Thomas Adams spoke about controversial content in literature

#### **H. Comments from Individual Board Members:**

Mrs. Goldberg thanked all teachers in honor of teacher appreciation, congratulated CVUSD Teacher of the Year, Linda Gomberg from BeMe Preschool, and spoke about her attendance at the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee meeting and the Coalition for Youth and Families meeting. She also congratulated Mrs. Fitzgerald on receiving the 40 under 40 award from the Chamber and wished all students good luck during their testing season.

Mr. Gorbach commended all teachers and let them know they are greatly appreciated by Board, students and families, and also spoke about his visit to Sequoia Middle School, at Maple's Open House event, and about his attendance at the County SELPA meeting.

Mrs. Fitzgerald thanked the student reporters for the amazing job they've done this year, thanked GATE DAC for their presentation and report on feedback, progress and successes, and thanked all teachers for their dedication to the students and the District.

Mrs. Everett thanked the GATE presenter for her presentation and thanked all teachers for their dedication, sacrifices and hard work.

#### **I. Comments from the Superintendent**

Dr. McLaughlin thanked all teachers for their efforts in the classroom and stated that the connection they make with students every day creates the community that we have in Conejo Valley and Thousand Oaks. He also acknowledged the District nurses, who work tight schedules, travel to multiple sites and spend countless hours planning to get every student's needs met. Dr. McLaughlin wished students good luck during their testing season.



organization of the GATE program, professional development for teachers, fun Friday activities, opportunities for students to discover interests and connect with like-minded students, the importance of partners of GATE DAC for exploratory activities, and lack of focus on gate students at the school sites. She also encouraged high school collaboration to provide teachers with specific training and certification, spoke about a measurement to gauge success, equitable access to engaging activities and focusing on empowering the students of today.

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- President Connolly talked about the Board's interest in the SPSA reflecting shifts in the work done, the shifts in school culture and shifting the focus from spending to a comprehensive assessment.

**Motion carried: 5-0.**

**D. Instructional Services – Approval of Schedule – New Bell Schedule and Continuing Common Planning Time – Westlake High School**

Mrs. Goldberg made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Everett. President Connolly asked if there were any questions or discussion, which there was none. **Motion carried: 5-0.**

**E. Instructional Services – Approval of New Administrative Regulation 6161.12 – Grade 9-12 Alternative Core Literature Assignment Process**

Mrs. Goldberg made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Gorback. President Connolly announced that there were 24 comment cards submitted.

- Speaker 1 spoke in favor of the warning to parents of explicit materials and forming a parent committee to review literature.
- Speaker 2 spoke about alternative options to explicit literature.
- Speaker 3 yielded time to Nan Chu.
- Speaker 4 spoke about graphic literature and encouraged teachers to involve parents and students in the choosing of literature.
- Speaker 5 spoke about the article in Newbury Park Prowler.
- Speaker 6 spoke about her disapproval of literature that includes content that could traumatize students and suggested that the Board survey the community about this issue.
- Speaker 7 yielded time to Mary Rickards.
- Speaker 8 spoke about giving parents an opportunity to see books prior to Board approval and voiced her favor for a warning when graphic materials are included.
- Speaker 9 read the California Penal Code on Statutory Rape and spoke in opposition of the book policy.
- Speaker 10 spoke in favor of the asterisk warning and using permission slips.
- Speaker 11 yielded time to Nico Van Niekerk.
- Speaker 12 spoke about the book The Bluest Eye, CDE's description of that book, and cited Penal Code.
- Speaker 13 yielded time to Tim Cooley.
- Speaker 14 spoke about the removal of the asterisk from the Board Policy and the responsibility of parents to make decisions on morals.
- Speaker 15 spoke about making age appropriate literature choices for children and encouraged parents to advocate for rights of their children.
- Speaker 16 spoke about her desire for a parent committee to review literature and an increase in communication between teachers and parents.
- Speaker 17 spoke about the Panther Prowler being an official student led, printed publication, and confirmed that the advisor cannot control published materials by law due to freedom of speech and press.
- Speaker 18 spoke about her lack of trust in the reading materials being presented at school and spoke in favor of the asterisk warning.
- Speaker 19 spoke about The Bluest Eye not being used for whole class instruction and clarified that AP students have the option to choose this book for term papers with parent permission.
- Speaker 20 spoke about his fear of what his children will be exposed to with literature in the schools.
- Speaker 21 spoke in support of the asterisk warning.
- Speaker 22 spoke about her disapproval of community members interfering with the jobs of teachers and silencing students.



- Speaker 23 yielded time to Mary Ann Van Zuyle.
- Speaker 24 spoke about fighting for the rights of our students and suggested that the Board focus on how to move our students forward.

President Connolly asked if there were any questions or discussion. The Board discussion included statements from Board members in favor of and opposed to the asterisk warning, the Board's legal responsibility, conversation on a parent committee to review literature, recommended changes to the Board Policy, Administrative Regulation and Exhibit, and a request for the District to go back and look at the alternative assignments offered.

President Connolly asked for a Board consensus on Option 1 or 2 on the Administrative Regulation. The Board consensus was for Option 2, which provides an alternate location during class time for a student who has opted out of a textbook, during which time that textbook is the main focus of instruction. Mr. Lichtl summarized the changes requested by the Board, and the Board reached consensus on those changes. The Board did not reach consensus on the recommended change to adding the word "positive" to Administrative Regulation 6161.12, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence.

Mr. Gorback called for the Board to vote. Motion carried: 3-2 with Mrs. Everett and Mrs. Goldberg voting no.

Mrs. Goldberg made the original motion to approve item 3E, seconded by Mr. Gorback. **Motion carried: 4-1, with Mrs. Everett voting no.**

**F. Instructional Services – Approval of Amendments to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6161.1 – Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials**

Mrs. Goldberg made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Gorback. President Connolly asked if there were any questions or discussion. Mr. Lichtl stated that changes were made to the word "student" in several sections of the Board Policy, and "will" was changed back to "shall" when referencing Education Code.

President Connolly announced that there were three comment cards:

- Speaker 1 spoke about suggestions for the Board on the literature selection process, finding replacements for the few books that have caused controversy and offering a compromise with warnings for parents.
- Speaker 2 yielded time to Andrea Ponticelli-Jansen
- Speaker 3 spoke about parents protecting their children, the developing brain of a child and not offering controversial materials.

Board discussion included criteria in Exhibit A for the rationale regarding a teacher bringing a title forward, and incorporating four questions from CDE into the Exhibit. The Board continued conversation about revisions to Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6161.1, and Exhibit A, and a suggestion for the English Language Arts Committee members to read all books that are being brought forward for approval.

Mr. Gorback called a point of order, and moved to extend the meeting to no later than 11:45 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Goldberg. **Motion carried: 5-0.**

A recommendation was made that the District set up a page on the CVUSD website with adoption information, including the adoption schedule, so that this information can be shared with the public and the Board and ensure transparency when the District is in the piloting or adoption phase. The Board continued to discussion recommended changes for the Board Policy, Administrative Regulation, and Exhibits A and B, and Mr. Lichtl then summarized those changes for clarification and received consensus from the Board on those changes.



Mrs. Fitzgerald called the question. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Mrs. Goldberg made the original motion to approve item 4F, seconded by Mr. Gorback. **Motion carried 4-1, with Mrs. Everett voting no.**

#### **4. ACTION ITEMS – CONSENT**

President Connolly stated that the Board would start the approval of the consent agenda by addressing pulled items 4L, 4O, 4R and 4AA in the order given.

##### **L. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9200 - Limits of Board Member Authority**

Mrs. Goldberg made the motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald. President Connolly asked if there were any questions or discussion. The Board discussion included the following questions/statements:

- Should Board members inform the Superintendent if they plan to volunteer in their child's class, and what method should they use to inform the District? Dr. McLaughlin confirmed that email would be sufficient.
- It was suggested that the bylaw be amended to state that Board members should inform the Superintendent each year if they plan to volunteer in their child's class.
- Is this the new Gamut language in bold? The Gamut version has a different sentence. Dr. McLaughlin confirmed this language is the current Gamut language.
- It was suggested to remove the phrase, "...whose child is attending a district school." The Board did not reach consensus on this recommendation.

This item was tabled for the next Board meeting.

##### **O. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9260 – Legal Protection**

Mrs. Goldberg made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Gorback. President Connolly asked if there were any questions or discussion. Due to presentations in the Information portion of the agenda, this item was tabled for the next Board meeting.

##### **R. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9321.1 – Closed Session Actions and Reports**

There was no motion or second made to approve this item. Mrs. Goldberg stated that she pulled this bylaw. Dr. McLaughlin stated that the Options 1 and 2 on this bylaw had the same verbiage. The word "not" should be removed from Option 1. President Connolly asked for the Board to vote. **Motion carried: 5-0.**

##### **AA. Approval of Warrants – April 2019**

President Connolly asked if this item was essential to vote on during this Board meeting. After receiving an answer from Dr. McLaughlin, this item was tabled for the next Board meeting.

President Connolly asked for a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda. Mrs. Goldberg moved to approve the amended Consent Agenda, seconded by Mrs. Fitzgerald.

**Motion carried: 5-0.**

**A. Approval of Minutes**

**B. Personnel Assignment Orders**

**C. Voluntary Consent to Discipline – Student #4-18/19 E**

**D. Overnight Trip Request – Westlake High School Spirit Cheer USA Cheer Camp**

**E. Overnight Trip Request – Newbury Park High School Sideline Cheer Trip**

**F. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9000 – Role of the Board**

**G. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9005 – Governance Standards**



- H. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9011 – Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information
  - I. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9121.1 – Board Vice President
- J. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9122 - Secretary
- K. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9123 - Clerk
- M. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9222 - Resignation
- N. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9224 – Oath or Affirmation
- P. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9270 – Conflict of Interest
- Q. Board of Education – Approval of Board Bylaw 9321 – Closed Session Purposes and Agendas
- S. Human Resources – Approval of Contract – Brandman University
- T. Human Resources – Approval of Directed Teaching Agreement – Pepperdine University
- U. Approval of Annual Renewal Contract with Blackboard Inc.
- V. Approval of Agreement between the Conejo Valley Unified School District and LWP Claims Solutions, Inc. for Third-Party Claims Administration of the Self-Funded Workers' Compensation Program
- W. Approval of Compromise and Release of Stipulated Award
- X. MEASURE I: Notice of Completion
- Y. Approval of Contracts Under \$5,000
- Z. Approval of Purchase Order Report (PO's exceeding \$5,000)
- BB. Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment

## **5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS – GENERAL**

- A. Presentation: Century Academy Repair Update by Dr. Victor Hayek and Executive Cabinet**  
 Dr. Hayek presented an update on the Century Academy relocation. The discussion included an update on the status of repairs, options for Century's relocation and Measure I funds used for this purpose, their hybrid learning program, what's best for students and their learning environment, suitable long term plans for Century, and a proposal to move forward with establishing Century on the Horizon Hills campus. Dr. McLaughlin confirmed that the footprint of the parenting program would remain the same for next year. The Board discussion included the following questions/statements:
- How long is the wait list for Century? Dr. McLaughlin answered that there is no wait list, and a current enrollment of approximately 150 students.
  - Discussed moving the home school program to Horizon Hills, and talked about parking capacity at Horizon Hills and Waverly. Dr. Hayek answered that Horizon Hills have 180-190 parking spaces, and Waverly has over 200. Century has about 50 students and 12 staff members that would need parking spots.
  - Is there room to expand the parking lot? Dr. Hayek stated that they could expand the parking lot using the adjoining dirt lot.
  - How many employees are moving to 667 Rancho Conejo Blvd.? Dr. Hayek answered 5 total.
  - Is there an option to move Maintenance & Operations to 667? Dr. Hayek answered that the entire department won't fit at that site. Dr. McLaughlin added that there aren't enough parking spots in front of 750 Mitchell to accommodate the visitors for those departments moving to 667.

President Connolly announced that there were two comment cards submitted:

- Speaker 1 spoke about her support of the Special Education Department moving to the District Office location.
- Speaker 2 questioned why money was spent on mold removal at Century when those portables are past their expiration dates and should be destroyed, and commented about the need for a wet lab at Century's new facility.



Further discussion included the need for the Board to reach consensus on moving forward with Century remaining on the Horizon Hills campus due to the timeline required to have that campus up and running prior to the 2019-2020 school year, available student restrooms, ADA compliance and funding, and the growth capacity for Century. The Board reached consensus on moving forward with Century remaining on the Horizon Hills campus, which includes the Special Education Department moving to the District Office location.

**B. Presentation: Budget/LCAP Committee Update by Dr. Victor Hayek, Deputy Superintendent and Luis Lichtl, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services**

This presentation was tabled for the next Board meeting.

**C. Presentation: Energy Management: Clean Power Option by Mr. Rick Freed, Energy Manager**

This presentation was tabled for the next Board meeting.

**D. Approval of Scheduled Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2019-2020**

This item was tabled for the next Board meeting.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**A. Future Board Topics / Activities**

This item was tabled for the next Board meeting.

**B. Adjournment**

President Connolly adjourned the Open Session at 11:44 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 5:00 p.m. Closed Session, and 6:00 p.m. Open Session at Conejo Valley High School in the CVUSD Board Room, 1402 E. Janss Road, Thousand Oaks.

June 18, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

June 18, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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Superintendent