

FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees****District Board Room****Tuesday, March 24, 1998****7:00 P.M.****MINUTES****1. GENERAL INFORMATION****1a. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular meeting of the Fullerton School District Board of Trustees was called to order by President Robert Fisler on Tuesday, March 24, 1998 at 7:01 p.m. City Councilman, Buck Catlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1b. ROLL CALL

Board Members:

- Robert Fisler, President
- Marjorie Pogue, Vice President
- Hilda Sugarman, Clerk
- Kim Guth, Member
- Anthony Valla, Member

Administration:

- Ron Cooper, Superintendent
- Karin Lynch, Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
- Linda Caillet, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
- Patricia Godfrey, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
- Marie Sweet, Secretary to the Superintendent

1c. INTRODUCTIONS

District principals introduced their "Principal for a Day." Each "Principal for a Day" was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a plaque for their participation at the schools on March 17.

Carolee Michael, principal at Raymond School, introduced students and teachers comprising Raymond's Odyssey of the Mind team. The team placed first in regional

competition and will be competing in State competition in Davis, California. Each student was presented with a certificate of honor.

2. CONSENT ITEMS

Moved by Hilda Sugarman, seconded by Anthony Valla and carried unanimously that the Board of Trustees approve the Consent Items as corrected and presented.

2a. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

That the Board of Trustees approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on March 10, 1998 and Special Meetings on March 11 and March 16, 1998.

2b. APPROVE CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL REPORT

That the Board of Trustees approve the Certificated Personnel Report (New Hires, Leaves of Absence, Extra Duty Assignments, Resignations and Retirements).

2c. APPROVE CLASSIFIED TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

That the Board of Trustees approve classified tuition reimbursement for: Catalina Davis (\$271.92); William Dugan (\$106.00); Rosemary Espinoza (\$99.80); Debra Fry (\$111.60); Janet Knoll (\$307.13); Jim Konegni (\$112.68); Patricia Reichert (\$141.49 and \$227.83); Rose Rogers (\$102.76) Randy Rohde (\$229.45); and Shannon Thompson (\$500.00).

2d. APPROVE/RATIFY PURCHASE ORDERS

That the Board of Trustees approve/ratify purchase orders numbered 73777 through 74055 for 1997/98.

2e. APPROVE/RATIFY WARRANTS

That the Board of Trustees approve/ratify warrants numbered 41782 through 41971 in the amount of \$729,152.20.

2f. ADOPT RESOLUTIONS 97/98-89 THROUGH 97/98-92 AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS

That the Board of Trustees adopt Resolutions 97/98-89 through 97/98-92 authorizing budget transfers according to Education Code Section 42600 and use of unbudgeted income according to Education Code Section 42602 for submission to the Orange County Superintendent of Schools.

2g. ACCEPT GIFTS

That the Board of Trustees accept gifts as listed on 2g and authorize District staff to express the Board's appreciation to all donors.

2h. APPROVE LECTURERS

That the Board of Trustees approve the following lecturers: 1) Ferris C. Bell at Parks Junior

High School from March 25 through May 5, 1998 at a total cost not to exceed \$600.00; 2) Dennis McGonagle, Districtwide (All the Arts) from March 25, 1998 through April 18, 1998 at a total cost not to exceed \$400.00; 3) Adam Christing of Clean Comedians at Ladera Vista Junior High School on March 26, 1998 at a total cost not to exceed \$900.00; and 4) Camfel Productions at Ladera Vista Junior High School on May 21, 1998, at a total cost not to exceed \$500.00.

2i. APPROVE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL CONTRACTS

That the Board of Trustees ratify nonpublic school contracts for special education students with: 1) Florence Crittenton (MIS ID #97-01609) effective March 25, 1998 through June 30, 1998 at a cost not to exceed \$1,820.00; and 2) Rossier School (MIS ID #96-00054) effective March 25, 1998 through June 30, 1998 at a cost not to exceed \$9,219.40.

2j. AWARD BID FOR REPLACEMENT OF FOUR SCHOOL BUSES

That the Board of Trustees award the bid for replacement of four school buses, FSD Project #97/98-101, to A-Z Bus Sales, Inc. for a total bid amount of \$248,600.80.

2k. APPROVE STUDENT TEACHING AGREEMENT WITH BIOLA UNIVERSITY

That the Board of Trustees approve a student teaching agreement with Biola University, La Mirada, California, for placement of student teachers in the Fullerton School District from March 25, 1998 through August 1, 1998.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3a. VALENCIA PARK AND PACIFIC DRIVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS

Dr. Patricia Godfrey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported on the possible adjustment of the current north/south boundary line separating Valencia Park and Pacific Drive attendance areas in a westerly direction toward Valencia Park School. The proposed north/south dividing line would be Gilbert Avenue and would involve approximately 180 students. Both schools have notified their School Site Council, PTA and staff of the possible change. Pacific Drive would not be directly affected by students being assigned to a different school attendance area.

3b. ANNUAL INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT

Dr. Patricia Godfrey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported that the Board had unanimously adopted Board Policy 3430 (Investing) on February 11, 1997 and there are no proposed changes to the policy.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4a. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR PHI DELTA KAPPA MINI GRANT

Moved by Marjorie Pogue, seconded by Anthony Valla and carried unanimously that the Board of Trustees approve the submission of a mini grant application to Phi Delta Kappa (CSUF Chapter) by Sunset Lane School.

4b. SECOND READING OF PROPOSED NEW BOARD POLICY, ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION AND EXHIBIT 5131.9 (ACADEMIC HONESTY)

Ellen Rawland, Coordinator of Child Welfare and Attendance, reviewed changes that were made to the proposed policy as suggested by Board members at the March 10, 1998 Board meeting.

Conrad DeWitte, community member, spoke to the Board giving his suggested changes to the proposed new policy (extra tutoring on the first offense and listing the names of students involved in homework assignments).

Anita Smiley, Fullerton Elementary Teachers Association president, spoke to the Board requesting that teachers have the opportunity to look at the document for review and input prior to its adoption.

Trustee Valla suggested that for Grades 4-6, a 4th offense be added which would include everything on the 3rd offense and a two-day suspension. Mr. Valla suggested that for Grades 7-8, a two-day suspension be added to the 3rd offense. Board consensus (4-0-1, with Trustee Guth abstaining) was to add Trustee Valla's suggested changes to the proposed policy.

Trustee Valla also asked that each teacher and their class be encouraged to set up an honor code which is acceptable to the students and their teachers, using the classroom poster for their guidelines.

Trustee Sugarman thanked principals for taking the Board's suggestions. She noted, in response to Mr. DeWitte's comments, her request for tutoring has been addressed on the third offense. She suggested that "homework" be changed to "work" on BP 5131.9, Paragraph 1, Line 1 and on E5131.9, Paragraph 1, "homework" be deleted. She noted that she would like to keep the policy as broad as possible.

Board consensus was that this item be brought back for Board consideration on April 28, 1998.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Conrad DeWitte, community member, spoke to the Board suggesting that Beechwood be reopened as a single sex school for low achieving male students.

Kathi Nihaus, community member, urged to the Board to reopen Beechwood as a "Back to Basics" school.

REPORTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Ron Cooper called on Lauralyn Eschner, Fine Arts Coordinator, who reported on the Young Artist Festival held on March 16. There were an estimated 3,500 visitors, 3,600 pieces of student art work and 75 volunteers. Ms. Eschner noted that \$6,500.00 was raised from this event.

REPORTS FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Valla reported he visited Pacific Drive and attended the Special Olympics at Woodcrest School. He also noted he attended the Acacia and Parks breakfasts. Trustee Valla commented on a Los Angeles Times newspaper article regarding a study on phonics and whole language and he requested a copy of the study.

Trustee Guth read a note she received from Chris Norby informing her of the wonderful math fair that was held at Raymond School.

Trustee Guth reported she attended and enjoyed the Woodcrest 1998 Special games and commended Elizabeth Valla who organized the very successful event. Trustee Guth reported that she also enjoyed her visit to Pacific Drive first grade classrooms where she observed phonics being taught.

Trustee Guth referenced a newspaper article on whole language and phonics and requested a copy of the whole language study.

Trustee Guth referred to a newspaper article in the Register dated March 20, 1997 with the headline, "Cal State Freshmen Not Ready," and another article dated March 18, 1998 which showed statistics that "Unprepared CSU Freshman A Record." Trustee Guth suggested that District staff dialogue with University staff.

Trustee Guth asked Mr. Fislser to read the Brown Act (Education Code section 54960) relating to the gagging certain members of the body and stated that she would not tolerate her free speech rights being abused in the future. President Fislser thanked Trustee Guth and agreed to read it.

Trustee Sugarman reported that she also read the March 18 article on California State University, Fullerton entering students and noted that she has asked Dr. Gordon for information as to what percentage of Fullerton students represent the students noted in the article. Trustee Sugarman also asked Dr. Cooper to request information from the High School District as to the entering college students.

Trustee Sugarman reported on a Task Force Committee meeting she attended and commended Dr. Good for keeping everyone focused and keeping the committee within its financial limits.

Trustee Sugarman reported on the PTA Council meeting she attended earlier in the day. She noted that Superintendent Escalante (FJUHS) is very concerned that political leverage in the future might be used from the results of the STAR test that is not in alignment with what the students are learning.

Trustee Sugarman reported that she has been visiting schools and speaking to parents about conference week. She noted that parents seem to feel the conference week is beneficial.

Trustee Pogue reported that she thoroughly enjoyed the Young Artist Festival and was amazed with the number of volunteers. She also reported she attended the Retired Teachers Association meeting and praised Robert Fislser for raising funds to give scholarships to 6 students.

Trustee Pogue also reported on her visit to classes at Golden Hill and her attendance at the

Daughters of the American Revolution awards ceremony.

Trustee Fisler reported he attended many of the same events that other Board members had previously reported. He noted that he participated in Laguna Road Day of the Reader and was pleased with his visit at Ladera Vista.

Trustee Guth announced that she and Steve Keller (former Nicolas Junior High School principal) will be two of several speakers at a March 25 "Back to Basics" discussion sponsored by the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters and the Parent Teacher Association. She invited the community to attend the event at 7:00 p.m. at the Brea Community Center.

5. INFORMATION WITH ACTION POSSIBLE

5a. PUBLIC HEARING ON INITIAL CONTRACT PROPOSAL FROM THE FULLERTON ELEMENTARY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (FETA) TO THE FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

President Fisler declared a public hearing to allow citizens to speak to the initial contract proposal from the Fullerton Elementary Teachers Association to the Fullerton School District.

Anita Smiley, FETA president, read a statement addressing the need to bring the Fullerton School District teacher salaries to competitive levels.

Conrad DeWitte, community member, requested a summary of the proposed changes and suggested that District staff present data on district teacher salaries throughout the county from high to low.

There were no additional requests to speak to this item and President Fisler declared the public hearing closed.

5b. FIRST READING OF PROPOSED NEW BOARD POLICY 3313 (PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS)

Conrad DeWitte, community member, spoke to the Board stating that he felt the proposed policy seems to further complicate the bid process.

Board members reviewed proposed new Board Policy 3313. (Prequalification of Contractors) and addressed several questions to Dr. Patricia Godfrey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. Trustee Guth requested to see a bid questionnaire.

5c. AMEND BEECHWOOD LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Moved by Hilda Sugarman, seconded by Marjorie Pogue and carried unanimously that the Board of Trustees amend the Beechwood Lease Agreement with the Fullerton Joint Union High School District accepting restoration cost of \$260,000.00 and extending the lease through July 31, 1998 with the option to extend the lease through August 31, 1998.

5d. BOARD DISCUSSION OF CONSIDERATION TO ADMINISTER THE SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE SUB TESTS

Trustee Guth indicated that she would like the District to give social studies and science sub tests as exit exams for 8th grade students. She asked her fellow Board members to consider giving the test. After Board discussion, it was the consensus of the Board not to administer the social studies and science sub tests.

5e. BOARD DISCUSSION OF TIME LINE FOR RESPONSE TO BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

Trustee Sugarman indicated that she would like the Board to set a procedure to prioritize Board requests that are important and to cast aside those requests that are too burdensome or take too much of staff's time. Trustee Sugarman gave several examples of how other districts handle trustee requests. Trustee Sugarman suggested that items be placed on the Board agenda and Board requests be directed to the Superintendent only by Board consensus.

Conrad DeWitte, community member, spoke on his concern that the proposed suggestion for Board requests and requests for agenda items would take away the right of any one Board member from requesting information.

Trustee Pogue stated that Board members receive their Board agenda information on Thursday for review, stating that she feels the Board has plenty of time to read the material and call the District with any questions prior to the Board meeting on Tuesday. Trustee Pogue stated the reason she feels four of the Board members quite often vote the same is that they are satisfied they have all the information they need to vote. Trustee Pogue stated that staff should not be required to have a monumental amount of paperwork prepared within a two-day period of time because of questions. Trustee Pogue also stated that at times the Board receives the same information for questions that have already been answered only because a Board member requests the same information again.

Trustee Valla reiterated Trustee's Pogue's comments and added that the Board hires experts to run the District and that he feels that the Board should not micro manage but should allow staff to do their job. Trustee Valla stated that he would consider giving the Superintendent the power to step in and stop excessive demands made on the staff and allow the Superintendent to clarify how much time should be devoted to requests.

President Fisler stated that the Board hires people who know their fields and the Board should accept their recommendations. President Fisler agreed with Trustee Pogue that the Board receives plenty of information and if he has questions, he calls the Superintendent.

Trustee Guth stated that she has always respected staff. She also noted that the citizens, not the State, gave the power to the Board as elected officials and the Board's duty and responsibility is to the citizens of Fullerton. She stated that the duty of the Board is oversight of the staff and to not blindly accept everything that is brought to the Board. Trustee Guth suggested that the Board direct the Superintendent to prepare a weekly or bimonthly report on Board member requests. Trustee Guth also stated that the public has a right for information under the Public Records Act and referred to the Brown Act, stating

that any member of the public may place an item on the Board agenda. She stated that the Board would be violating the Brown Act if items were placed on the agenda only by consensus of the Board. Trustee Guth further suggested that the Board direct the Superintendent to present a time line of how often and how long Board members are talking to staff members.

Trustee Sugarman responded that she is only looking to the future for developing a plan that will make the District function on a higher level. She suggested that the Superintendent develop a policy to set a reasonable time line/frame for Board requests to protect staff time.

Beth Lamb, Valencia Park parent, commented that she has attended Board meetings where she has seen Trustee Guth treat people with no respect and has seen Trustee Guth being rude. Ms. Lamb also commented that she has seen Trustee Guth ask the same questions repeatedly when she does not like the answer she receives. She urged the Board to set a time line for requests.

Veronica Bullard, Sunset Lane parent, voiced her concern that a few parents of a select organization who do not have children in the District voice their viewpoints/opinions which do not reflect the opinions of the majority of the parents in the School District. She noted that she would like to see a time line set for Board members to voice their views in a timely manner.

5d. DISTRICT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

The Board of Trustees reviewed the District calendar of events from March 25, 1998 through April 14, 1998. Dr. Cooper noted a Special Board meeting has been scheduled for a workshop on the reopening of Beechwood School at the Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board Room (Beechwood site) on March 31, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Also, Hermosa Drive Jog-A-Thon listed on April 14, will be rescheduled.

BOARD MEMBER REQUEST(S) FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Guth withdrew her previous request to have the Superintendent present a draft guideline for allocation of instructional minutes, with the assumption of reassurance that it would be on the April 14 Board agenda. She referred to her request for identifying the core reading instructional materials and their cost and asked when a reasonable time would be to request the information. Dr. Caillet, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, responded that District staff should have the information by the end of April. Trustee Guth stated that her final request for the evaluation of how the Board is to evaluate the core subjects had already been discussed at this meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:55 p.m. President Fisler announced that the Board would recess into Closed Session to:

- 1) Discuss Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release;
- 2) Discuss Student Discipline;
- and 3) Confer with Legal Counsel regarding Anticipated Litigation (One Potential Case; Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9). President Fisler stated that action was anticipated.

OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:30 p.m. President Fisler announced that in Closed Session the Board took action directing the Superintendent to notify two certificated employees of non-reemployment for the 1998/99 school year pursuant to Education Code section 44929.21.

ADJOURNMENT

President Fisler adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m. on March 24, 1998.

Hilda Sugarman, Clerk

Board of Trustees