

Fountain Valley School District
Superintendent's Office

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

10055 Slater Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

September 10, 2009

MINUTES

President Pro Tem Tony McCombs called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:31pm. CALL TO ORDER

The following board members were present: ROLL CALL

Mr. Tony McCombs	President Pro Tem
Mrs. Christine Allcorn	Member
Mr. Ian Collins	Member

Absent:

Mrs. Pat Harney	President
Mrs. Judy Edwards	Clerk

Dr. Ecker led the Pledge of Allegiance. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. McCombs noted the addendum to the closed session agenda, requesting the addition of : AGENDA APPROVAL

- Pupil Personnel: *Education Code 48915.1 and 49818 Discussion of contract with Non-Public Agency with the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent*
- Negotiations: *Government Code 54957.6 Update and review of negotiations with FVEA Bargaining Units with the Board's designated representative, Rosemary Eadie*

Motion: Mr. Collins moved to approve the meeting agenda.
Second: Mrs. Allcorn
Vote: 3-0

There were no requests to address the Board prior to closed session.

Mr. McCombs announced that the Board would retire into closed session. No action was anticipated. The following would be addressed: CLOSED SESSION

- Personnel Matters: *Government Code 54957 and 54957.1 Appointment/Assignment/Promotion of employees;*

employee discipline/dismissal/release; evaluation of employee performance; complaints/charges against an employee; other personnel matters

- Negotiations: *Government Code 54957.6 Update and review of negotiations with FVEA Bargaining Unit with the Board’s designated representative, Rosemary Eadie*

The public portion of the meeting resumed at 7:09pm.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Marc Starkey from Energy Education presented to the Fountain Valley School District and the Board of Trustees the Energy Pacesetter Award in recognition of the success of the District’s energy conservation program. Mr. Millett, Energy Conservation Manager, thanked the members of his team for their hard work in making the District’s program a success. He explained that the District has enjoyed a \$151,877 energy costs savings since the start of the program. Dr. Ecker and President Pro Tem, Mr. McCombs, along with Mr. Millett, accepted the award on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the District. Dr. Ecker thanked and commended Mr. Millett on the huge success of the energy conservation program and his guidance of the program.

PRESENTATION OF THE ENERGY EDUCATION PACESETTER AWARD

Mrs. Eadie, Deputy Superintendent, acknowledged the recent generous grant funding to each of the schools in the Fountain Valley School District by the Assistance League of Huntington Beach. These grants totaled \$27,500 and were presented via the Assistance League’s philanthropic program called “Links to Learning.” The Assistance League is able to fund so many philanthropic causes, like “Links to Learning”, through the proceeds from their thrift store at 8071 Slater Avenue in Fountain Valley. Grant Coordinator for “Links to Learning”, Bonnie Call, along with several members of the Assistance League were present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GRANT PRESENTATIONS BY THE HUNTINGTON BEACH ASSISTANCE LEAGUE

STUDY SESSION

At the start of the Second Study Session on the Board Interests, Mrs. Allcorn asked whether or not the Board needed to adopt the Interests this evening or if they could wait until the rest of the Board was present. Mr. McCombs noted that there was nothing that says that the

SECOND STUDY SESSION: BOARD INTERESTS

Board has to adopt the Interests by tonight and that they could also hold off on adoption until the next Board meeting but continue the discussion tonight. He noted that the Board could table item 5 under Legislative Session until the October 1st Board meeting and could open the discussion up at that time again.

Dr. Ecker explained that the Interests as revised have been discussed with both Mrs. Harney and Mrs. Edwards. Neither had any revisions. He noted that there was not any urgency to adopting the Interests tonight and that Mrs. Edwards would be back for the October 1st Board meeting.

Mr. McCombs asked the Board if they would like to hold off on the Study Session as well, until the entire Board was present.

Mrs. Allcorn explained that at the last meeting, the Board did reach consensus that these are good interests and as Dr. Ecker stated, those trustees absent did not have any changes to make.

Dr. Ecker noted that if there are not many changes to be made in these interests, they can be brought back under Legislative Session for the October 1st meeting and discussed prior to adoption.

Mrs. Allcorn noted that she had read over the revised interests and was pleased with the revisions.

Mr. Collins noted that 1-4 are carry overs from the previous year. Regarding interest 5, it is ongoing this year and next and is a fine interest. And regarding interest 6, it sounds like staff is in the process of getting additional information for implementation and it sounds like a good interest.

Mr. McCombs noted that the regarding all-day Kindergarten, and the concern given the current State and District budgets, the current wording is making a statement that we probably know we will not be able to achieve in 2010-11. He suggested that it may be better to state that this be accomplished when fiscally possible.

Dr. Ecker noted the change and stated that staff can replace 2010-11 with fiscally feasible. He explained that as Mrs. Allcorn knows, this interest has been moved along year after year. Given all of the budget cuts and changes that have come, there are teachers that are interested in all-day Kindergarten at some of our sites. He noted that are currently an Option II Kindergarten and changes to our format can cause us to fall out of compliance with the law and funding of that. Although, this can change. With the anticipated mid-year cuts, there can also be increased flexibility for programs, as we saw with the previous cuts. Changing the year to 'fiscally feasible' is any easy change.

Mr. Collins said that with this change, this interests now ties in with interest 5.

Mr. McCombs noted that regarding interest 6, he attended a webinar on the CSBA product for paperless agendas and said that it was interesting to see the presentation and how it would allow more flexibility for staff and would allow the District to do less

with more. He noted his interest in hearing more about an additional option for paperless agendas, similar to that done in neighboring districts.

Dr. Ecker explained that Ms. Hansen had done research on another option that would allow the Board a smooth transition into paperless agendas. He explained that in terms of moving forward, he would put a timeframe together after the Board adopts this as an interest of activities for staff to complete in preparation of this transition, including the scheduling of an ad hoc meeting in accordance with Ed. Code for the Board to practice going through the new agenda format. After the October 1st meeting, this development calendar would be put together for the Board. There were no additional comments regarding the Board Interests.

STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Superintendent Rosemary Eadie presented the 2009 STAR Tests Results for the Fountain Valley School District to the Board of Trustees. She noted some excellent performances at all of our schools, including Oka, which had an over 10% gain in all grade levels in ELA. She also noted Newland with the largest gain in a single grade in ELA, with 23% increase amongst third graders. She also noted the significant success of our schools in math, including the largest increase in a single grade in scores, Newland, with a 26% gain in third graders. She gave a preview of the API scores for 2009 for Fountain Valley School District as well, to be discussed further during a future Board meeting. Fountain Valley School District's overall API score for 2009 is 889, making it once again the top ranked elementary school district in Orange County. She commended Oka on their 63 point gain, making them the highest ranking school in Fountain Valley School District, with an API score of 927.

STAR TEST RESULTS

Mr. Collins noted that what many may not be aware of is the varying demographics at each school and that the numbers for each school are relative to the demographics there. He congratulated the schools for all of their hard work.

Mr. McCombs also extended his congratulations to each of the schools and noted the emphasis on improvement that was apparent. He congratulated the staff, and especially the students and their parents for their great accomplishments.

Mrs. Allcorn noted her excited over the District writing program, discussed in Mrs. Eadie's presentation.

Dr. Ecker explained that regarding thoughts on the writing portion of the STAR tests, Mrs. Eadie's thoughts of suspicion over the accuracy on the accuracy of the writing scoring have been echoed on the State Accountability and Assessment Task Force that he

participates in. He noted the tests are actually graded out of state, not locally, despite offer from local districts to score the tests free of charge. He noted that this brings to mind some of the questions raised regarding the writing prompts. He also echoed Mrs. Eadie's excitement on the District implemented writing assessments.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Collins noted the anniversary of 9/11 tomorrow and encourage everyone to fly the American flag in honor of this occasion. He noted that it is also National Volunteer Day and listening to the Huntington Beach Assistance League thought of the Board Interest to support ACE, SPC and the Volunteer Academy and the tie in with tomorrow that all of these organizations of volunteers have. He noted the importance to remember those that lost their lives on 9/11. He also noted that FVEF will be present at Back to School Night at each school and encourage parents to join given the money that is used in various programs from FVEF through the year. He also commended the speech that President Obama gave and his support of education, encouraging kids, parents and teachers not to quit. He said that the remarks made really hit home and that the speech was done very well. He noted that the cynicism surrounding this address is beyond him and that certainly this was an apolitical speech. He noted that hearing this message from the President is powerful

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Allcorn noted that she enjoyed taking her two sons to the first day of school and noted that the schools all look great. She has been using School Loop with her middle school son and is pleased with the site noting that the school year is off to a great start. She also attended the Staff Development Day and commended the great presentation made by the Homework Doctor. She said that it was great to hear what she presented and her tips for presenting homework to students with tools for parents that will make for a happy environment. She said this was a great use of the Staff Development Day.

Mr. McCombs noted that he missed the excitement of bringing his kids to the first day of school, especially since his girls have grown well past that age. It is a great time he noted. He also attended the webinar hosted by CSBA regarding their online agenda product and commended the presentation. He noted that the President's remarks to students were well placed. He noted that hearing a speech that was not political was enlightening and while we all have differences of opinions, he noted that it is okay to disagree. He felt that the President's address to students was

on target.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Four people addressed the Board of Trustees regarding their objection to the leasing of space to Mr. Mansuri and the Institute on Religious and Civic Values.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Motion: Mrs. Allcorn moved to table the adoption of the 2009-10 Board Interests until the October 1st Board meeting. **ADOPTION OF 2009-10 BOARD INTERESTS**

Second: Mr. Collins

Vote: 3-0

Motion: Mrs. Collins moved to approve the Consent Calendar. **CONSENT CALENDAR/ROUTINE ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Second: Mrs. Allcorn

Vote: 3-0

The Consent Calendar included:

- Minutes from the Board Meeting of August 27th
- Personnel Items
- Donations
- Warrant Registers
- Purchase Order Listings
- Budget Transfers
- Resolution 2010-18: Compensation for President Pat Harney for missed meeting August 27, 2009 due to illness
- Resolution 2010-17: GANN Amendment Appropriations Limitation
- 2009-10 Outdoor Science Education Study Trips
- Unaudited Actuals for Fiscal Year Ending 2008-09
- Reappointment of Personnel Commissioner William Mullin
- Capital Facilities Fund – Developer Fees

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests to address the board.

NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- Dr. Ecker Noted that 5 days of instruction into the school year, he is very pleased with the enrollment. He noted the enrollment to date at 6,202 students and that this represents daily growth throughout the district. He explained that the budget had previously been built on 185 less students than the current enrollment, and so this is very good news.
- Dr. Ecker Thanked Mrs. Eadie for her wonderful presentation on STAR test results and the surprise report on API scores. He commended Oka for their 63 point growth, noting the difficulty in accomplishing this feat, especially when already in the 800s. He noted his message to Oka teachers acknowledging the ongoing battle with the achievement gap and continuous attempt to reach subgroups with added resources and different teaching. He noted that these challenges are all present at Oka and their performance demonstrates that the delivery of instruction by excellent teachers does supersede these challenges.
- Dr. Ecker Thanked Mr. Collins for his mention of the importance of flying the flag. He noted the President's signing of a proclamation making tomorrow for national volunteering and requesting that all government agencies fly their flag at half-staff, which will be done at the District Office and all sites, in honor of Patriot's Day. He noted that discussions on the lives lost on this day eight years ago are important.
- Dr. Ecker Noted that Mrs. Harney is doing well and progressing. He noted that the Board and staff all extend to her our best wishes.
- Dr. Ecker Commended each of our school sites for their outstanding appearance and transportation. He commended and thanked Jim Sobraska and his staff for their outstanding transportation, something that he noted other districts do not have run as well as ours. He also commended Gary Ron for the grounds which look great at every site. And he also commended Joe Hastie

and Patrick Quinn for keeping our facilities up to date.

Dr. Ecker Noted the ConnectEd message that went out to all parents regarding the FVEF and the importance of parents joining the Foundation, especially given the budget this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Allcorn moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm.

Second: Mr. Collins

Vote: Unanimously approved

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