

Fountain Valley School District
Superintendent's Office

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

10055 Slater Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

August 19, 2010

MINUTES

President Tony McCombs called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:35pm. **CALL TO ORDER**

The following board members were present:

ROLL CALL

Mr. Tony McCombs	President
Mrs. Judy Edwards	President Pro Tem
Mr. Ian Collins	Clerk
Mrs. Christine Allcorn	Member
Mrs. Nicola Weiss	Member

Mr. McMahon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE
AGENDA APPROVAL**

Motion: Mrs. Edwards moved to approve the meeting agenda

Second: Mr. Collins

Vote: 5-0

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. McCombs announced that the Board would retire into Closed Session. Action was not 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.

The public portion of the meeting resumed at 7:10pm.

STUDY SESSION

Mr. McCombs opened the Study Session on District Goals for the 2010-11 year. Regarding the first goal of Standards and

**STUDY SESSION ON
DISTRICT GOALS FOR**

Accountability, Mr. Collins noted that he recently read an article regarding teachers not using data in instruction. He noted his amazement, stating the importance of data in instruction. 2010-11

Regarding goal 1.4 and the new ELA benchmark assessments, Mrs. Allcorn asked how these assessments were newly developed. Mrs. Eadie explained that the district has used Action Learning assessments the last four years for ELA assessments. Mrs. Eadie will be working with a group of teachers to develop assessments for the Houghton Mifflin for K-5 and the Holt text for 6-8.

Mr. Collins also noted from the article discussed data and the publishing of data along with teacher names. Mrs. Eadie assured Mr. Collins that the district would not be publishing data in this manner. Dr. Ecker added that the purpose of data is to aide in improving instruction and not public humiliation for staff. Mr. Collins noted his understanding the most teachers would want techniques and such to improve instruction but that he would not want teachers held accountable for the genetics of parents. He said that he understands a growing concern that the government gets more involved as a part of funding requirements. Dr. Ecker explained that it will be interesting to see how the use of data and the requirements for evaluation change with the ESEA laws but that this does fall outside of the district's scope. He noted how the district staff has grown with their use of data. Mr. Collins agreed that the district does have a very professional staff and that their teaching records show this as well as the success of our students.

Mrs. Weiss asked how many times students are assessed throughout the year with DIBELS. Mrs. Eadie explained that students are assessed formally once a trimester and then there is progress monitoring throughout the trimester, based on the progress of the students. It is very fluid as each test is only a minute long. She explained that this is used in grades K-3.

Mr. McCombs noted that item 1.1 is very close to last year's. Mrs. Eadie explained that the district was using data last year from Data Director to structure their teaching and the district would like them to continue to do this. This year there is new software for data that they will be able to keep up to date on. She noted that they will be conducting a mini workshop and she will report back to the board on this.

Mrs. Edwards noted that regarding 1.2 on professional learning communities there is an item on the agenda regarding

ScienceWorks Consortium. She noted that this can be used also to give teachers new idea sharing and collaboration. Mrs. Eadie agreed that at these meetings there is a lot of opportunity for collaboration. Mrs. Edwards asked about the pairing of sites for the DCMI grant. Mrs. Eadie explained that through this program, they worked in school groups and that it went really well. She explained that the hands-on science program works the same way.

Consensus was reached on goal 1 as written and the board moved onto goal 2, teaching and learning.

Mr. Collins inquired as to how wide spread the training for response to teaching and learning is in the district. Mrs. Eadie explained that it is very wide spread. Last year 5 days were spent with principals training in addition to training during the Management Retreat and the development of a PowerPoint that will be shown to staff by November. She also explained that during the Management Retreat there was an inservice by the County on the Houghton Mifflin and the Holt texts that the principals will then share with their staff. She noted that it will be a slow process but one that the staff wants to be sure that they do right. Dr. Ecker explained that he was very impressed with the training and delivery during the management retreat. He noted that the district does very well with kids but that training will help the district to prevent kids from falling through the cracks. He noted that it is a program with high intensity levels but one that will lessen the number of Special Ed referrals for the district as well as lower Special Ed costs. In October Dr. Ecker explained that has invited Cathie Abdel to present to the Board in order for them to see this approach and its benefits. Mrs. Edwards asked about the integration of this into existing Special Ed programs. Mrs. Eadie explained that RtI is not a Special Ed function but they are going to have the resource teachers this year look at some Tier II programs so that can move into this next year.

Mrs. Allcorn asked for Mrs. Eadie to expand on the implementation throughout the district of the VAPA program and what the pilot program would entail and where it will be. Mrs. Eadie explained that the district had three schools attend VAPA training at OCDE for a new curriculum that they since implemented at their sites. The plan from there was for the other sites to be trained although; the budget cuts have since prevented this. This year, the district has acquired the materials and will be holding trainings for those teachers that decide to participate during the voluntary Thursday trainings. Regarding the music program, it is the same sort of pilot, except that the County would

like only one school to do the pilot program so it will be a K-5 program at one site again for three days. Mrs. Eadie will let the board know when a site has been chosen. They will be using the teachers by grade level already trained to present to their peers. She explained that the VAPA program is made up of defined units with kids addressing certain standards. It is very user friendly and meant to be integrated into curricular areas.

Regarding 2.4, Mrs. Weiss asked how the district can ensure that the Community Volunteer Academy will be more successful at all of the sites instead of just the few that have begun already implementing this. Mrs. Eadie explained that this had been discussed at the principals meetings as far as what programs are working and which are not. There will be additional training for volunteers. Dr. Ecker included that there is an expectation that those parents that are trained are utilized, although it may look different at different sites based on how the principals decide to implement the program. Mrs. Weiss noted that some parents trained may be willing to assist at other sites as well. Mrs. Eadie agreed noting that there is nothing worse than being trained and then not being used, so this is something that they are definitely trying to avoid. Regarding Mr. Collins' question on evaluation of the program by those principals who have used it, Mrs. Eadie noted that there was an oral evaluation and they do all seem very pleased and have data to back up that it has been successful.

Regarding 2.3, Mr. Collins noted that this seems to tie in with 2.2. He asked when the PLCs will be getting together. Mrs. Eadie noted that happens at various times at different sites, ranging from meeting once a month in the evenings to others on Thursday afternoons. It is whatever works best at the site. She explained that there are PLCs at each site. Mr. Collins noted what a valuable tool this is.

Mrs. Allcorn noted her excitement at seeing item 2.5. Mrs. Eadie agreed that it is time to do this as the district is losing students to neighboring districts that do offer all day Kindergarten.

Consensus was reached on goal 2 and the board moved on to goal 3, staff development.

Mrs. Edwards asked how many new teachers the district has. Mrs. Eadie noted that there are nine new teachers. She is thrilled with the additions.

Mrs. Allcorn asked regarding 3.3, the district wide writing

program if there would be a committee formed or other format for exploration. Mrs. Eadie explained that in both Houghton Mifflin and Holt texts there are writing components that are not currently being implemented in the extent that they should be. She would like to give teachers a chance to work with these as well as exploring some of the many great programs out there, like Step up to Writing. While there are not funds to currently implement them district wide, they would like to research this year with possible implementation next year if there are funds.

Mrs. Weiss noted that in looking at the goals, she noticed a lack of science and math centered goals. Mrs. Eadie noted that ScienceWorks has been a goal in the last four to five years and is currently implemented at each site. She noted that it is not necessary to include this as a goal this year and that the district just needs to stay on top of it and make sure that it continues to happen. Regarding math she noted that the district continues to look at programs to help those students that are achieving as the district would like to see. While there is not a goal, attention to math is not going away. Dr. Ecker added that the goals are merely areas of focus. There are not any new math programs but it is still something that the district continues to look at improving. There are not any funds for staff development. Trainings are being done by principals.

Mr. Collins noted that a lot of the trainings listed are to be conducted by administrators. He expressed his opinion that our teachers are experts as well. He asked if they will be conducting some of the trainings as well. Mrs. Eadie explained that because it has been so long since the district had an in-service on the two ELA texts, there are not experts on staff. Mrs. Edwards noted that the Cotsen mentors have been great trainers. Mrs. Eadie agreed and noted how willing they are to share their knowledge. Mr. Collins noted that when teachers are doing the trainings, the teachers are more receptive to learning from one of their peers and it is a methodology that teachers appreciate and it develops a collegial spirit. Dr. Ecker noted that these trainings will not be in a lecture format and Mrs. Eadie agreed that it would follow more of a discussion format, focusing on what works and what doesn't. Dr. Ecker added that they want to get the information out to the teachers as effectively as possible given the budget constraints. Mr. Collins noted that PLCs have to be collaborative. Mrs. Eadie added that all of the principals do work in a collaborative model; it is not just for them. She added that Kim Phillips has been selected by Cotsen as a teacher whom other mentors can observe her teaching of math, a very great accomplishment. Mr.

McCombs commended Mrs. Eadie on her bridging together of the goals within instruction between development, accountability and teaching and learning.

Consensus was reached on goal 3 and the board moved on to goal 4, recruitment and retention of highly qualified certificated staff.

Mrs. Weiss noted that she was pleased to see 4.2 included. Mrs. Eadie noted that some staff and members of the insurance committee attended a training earlier in the day and are making strides regarding insurance.

Mr. Collins noted that it is an employers' market. Mrs. Eadie agreed and noted that for any open position, the district does receive several hundred applicants.

Consensus was reached on goal 4 and the board moved onto goal 5, improving the evaluation process for certificated and classified staff.

Mr. Collins noted the importance of 4.1, stating that it is critical. He noted that it has been lapse in other districts. Mrs. Eadie noted that the district has used this in the past few years.

Mrs. Allcorn asked whether any state or federal legislature may come into play regarding evaluation of staff and this goal. Mrs. Eadie noted that there is not anything definite at this point. Dr. Ecker explained that there is a component on teaching and learning and evaluation as a part of the new ESEA Reauthorization. There is a tremendous amount of discussion and it has been included in the blueprint that the State will be required to adopt provisions on evaluation of principals and teachers consistent with the law. Mrs. Allcorn asked if the district was already required to do this as a part of the State's application for Race to the Top. Dr. Ecker explained that the State did have to get certain legislation in line but regarding individual districts, evaluations are negotiable items and would have to be agreed upon. This does not change the direction of the law though and at this time we do not know what the final language of the law will be and how it will link to any federal funding. At this time, CA is a finalist in a Race to the Top contest and there are five large districts that had as a part of the application to indicate they would be moving toward consistency in the evaluation. This goal has been included pending the fact that the district would be seeing some changes in the coming year and wanted to included language in the goals to show that the district will strive to

improve the evaluation process and move in a direction consistent with which we see the nation going. There are a lot of unknowns regarding this at this time.

Mr. McCombs asked about the communications discussed in 5.3, whether they were improvements in global or individual communications. Mrs. Eadie explained that they are both.

Consensus was reached on goal 5 and the board moved onto goal 6, asset management.

Mr. Collins noted that it is still difficult to lease space but that it is a good goal to keep. He noted that the sale of Lamb and Wardlow is difficult but possible.

Mr. McCombs noted that this goal is a carryover from last year but that some of the space has been leased. Mr. Burkart noted that there is only one vacancy at the district office, although it makes up half of the leasable space. He noted that one tenant has moved out but does have the intent to sublet and is still paying rent despite having vacated.

Mrs. Allcorn asked for clarification on the process for leasing. Mr. Burkart explained that the district does have a broker who markets that space and coordinates possible tenants coming through based on their needs. At the current time, there are so many options for those looking for space. Those looking have the chance to find properties at similar price points in various locations of their choice.

Mr. McCombs noted that items 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 are difficult as Mr. Collins noted, especially during these times.

Regarding item 6.4, Mr. Burkart explained that Patrick Quinn had submitted his retirement papers with a retirement date of November 30, using some of his vacation time so that he does not have to be paid off, making his last day during mid October. Mr. McCombs thank Mr. Burkart for taking on the additional duties.

Consensus was reached on goal 6 and the board moved on to goal 7, district fiscal resources.

Mrs. Weiss noted item 7.4. Dr. Ecker explained that this is included to monitor the transfer of funds regarding insurance and to ensure that the district preserves this fund and replaces the

transfer.

Consensus was reached on goal 7.

Dr. Ecker thanked the board for their time and effort in reviewing these. Mr. Collins echoed Mr. McCombs sentiment from the previous meeting to have the goals reviewed before the board interests. Mr. McCombs thanked the board for the very participatory study session.

Mr. McCombs opened the study session on the Board Interests for 2010-11 by reminding the board that there were 5 interests that the board asked for revisions. He noted that item number 3 does appear as item 2.5 in the district goals as well as item 5 appearing as item 4.2 in the district goals. Given this, he suggested removing these from the interests list making room for potential additions. Mrs. Allcorn and Mrs. Edwards agreed. Mr. McCombs noted that 3 and 5 have been moved to district goals and are no longer on the interest list.

STUDY SESSION ON
BOARD INTERESTS FOR
2010-11

Regarding item 1, Mr. Collins noted that it would be nice if there was a broader support for Foundation membership from district personnel and parents in the schools. Dr. Ecker agreed and noted that he met with Beverly White, Executive Director and Franck Bideau, Education Committee Chair for the Chamber of Commerce. He noted that their discussion focused on the Chamber's involvement in the elementary schools and how to increase this. Dr. Ecker reported that they did devise a plan to improve this and bring together Foundation members and Chamber members to develop ways for both to work together. He noted that this is a first step to enlarging the membership base for the Foundation. Mr. McCombs noted that it is also a great way for the Foundation to access the resources of the Chamber and our business community as well as our students to access our business community be it with career days and seeing how local businesses have global reach. Dr. Ecker explained that the district has several events coming up this year, like the benefit concert and the programs in science and music that they would like the Chamber to support and be involved with. Mrs. Weiss agreed that the Foundation is not growing due to a lack of communication as to what the Foundation does. She agreed that reaching out to the business community would be beneficial to both the Chamber and Foundation. Mrs. Allcorn noted that it sounded like the board would like the change the culture of the Foundation, involving more people and getting businesses more involved, steering the Foundation to be more a part of the community. Dr. Ecker noted

that there has been some frustration that only 14% of the population have children in the district while other districts' foundations have a much broader connection to their cities' business communities and that this is the direction that the Foundation needs to go. Mr. McCombs noted the need to include advocacy and Mrs. Allcorn agreed noting the need to include language regarding closer contact to the Chamber and increased outreach and visibility in the community. Mrs. Edwards noted the need to be careful as the City of Fountain Valley has a foundation as well and it may become an issue for the Chamber. Mrs. Weiss noted that they are open to working together, having a member of their foundation present at the last Foundation meeting. Mr. Collins agreed and noted that they are willing to work with the Foundation. He noted that would like to see more of the community involved. Dr. Ecker agreed that they would rework this to interest to include this language.

Regarding item 2, Mr. Collins noted the importance of this item and as a small district that the many sources of communication are commendable and need to remain an interest. Mrs. Edwards agreed that this is very appropriate and important.

Regarding item 4, Mr. Collins noted the importance of this interest and noted that it should be communicated clearly to staff as they can come up with ideas to attract students to the district. Dr. Ecker noted his understanding of this as the board's interest in seeking out magnet programs. He noted his recent meeting with Susie Crandall and Hyundai regarding a STEM program for the district that they might be interested in. He noted that this is the sort of magnet programs that this interest can go to. Mr. Collins noted that at times there are small programs at the schools that are important to parents, like Tamura's Honor Society. He noted that these are attractive to people, especially given the nature of the population and district. He noted that these are little things but very important, in addition to the magnet programs. Sometimes people can believe rumors about schools and these can be disproved easily just by the achievements of students. Mrs. Allcorn noted that this interest did carry over from previous years and was originally more focused on the Huntington Beach schools that the district was losing attendance to and what programs would attract students. Mr. Collins agreed but noted that the other little hooks like the clubs and awards do attract parents interested in education. Mr. McCombs noted the need based on the conversation to reword the interest. Mrs. Allcorn noted that as parents are school shopping, perhaps there is a fourth interest here to promote those things that make each school community unique

through the newspapers, the website and the magazine. Dr. Ecker noted there are links to each site's website from the district's website where principals can do such promoting. Mr. McCombs added that in addition to this though, there is a need for principals to tap the media and to get the resources out there to reach the community and especially the part of the community that does not have kids. Mrs. Allcorn noted that as Mr. Collins said, some schools do have reputations and so in those cases it is important to get some positive press out there. Dr. Ecker noted the district's coverage in *School News*. Mr. Collins noted the need to celebrate individual teacher achievements and to cover on a broader scope than *School News*. Mrs. Weiss noted the need to publicizes those things that go beyond academics. Mrs. Edwards noted that the sites do a lot of good things but that it seems the district is only picked up in the paper for negative press. Dr. Ecker agreed that this is a focus of the district for some time and goes to the heart of some of the discussions at the schools. He asked for some clarification as to the board request. Mr. Collins noted the science projects at Talbert School and others and the need to celebrate both individual student and teacher accomplishments as well as the other things that go on at our schools. Dr. Ecker agreed and noted that there was a time when there was better coverage in the *Fountain Valley View* that no longer exists. Mrs. Eadie explained that the media is alerted to those events that go on at the sites, although they do not cover it unless it is controversial. Mrs. Allcorn suggested getting a meeting with *Fountain Valley Living* to feature the site(s) that are being honored at each board meeting. Dr. Ecker agreed that promoting those good things that go on at our schools is a universal goal but the question is always who will put the content together, most likely it will fall on the shoulders of the principals. Mrs. Allcorn suggested asking ACE or the PT units assist in this. Dr. Ecker noted his understanding and noted that he would put together language for this interest to promote those good things that go on at the schools on a regular basis.

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Edwards very much enjoyed the BBQ at Dr. Ecker's house and the close of the management retreat.

Mrs. Allcorn also attended the end of the management retreat BBQ at Dr. Ecker's and enjoyed the event.

Mrs. Weiss attended the Foundation meeting and was pleased to report that planning for the October 8th Taste of Fountain Valley was well under way. She noted that an

BOARD REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

online auction has been added for the event for those unable to attend the festivities.

Mr. McCombs noted that he had received confirmation from the County of the District's submission of its single adoption budget for 2010-11.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was 1 request to address the Board of Trustees. The FVEA President addressed the board regarding his desire for there to continue to be an open dialogue between the board and the FVEA, explaining that the nuances of the board's position may at times get lost in translation and that an open dialogue can help prevent this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Motion: Mrs. Allcorn moved to approve the Consent Calendar/Routine Items of Business.

**CONSENT
CALENDAR/
ROUTINE ITEMS OF
BUSINESS**

Second: Mrs. Edwards

Regarding item 3-L Reimbursement for Independent Educational Evaluations, Mr. Collins asked whether or not these evaluations were something already offered by the district and if so, if parents were able to refuse the evaluations in favor of independent evaluations. Mrs. Eadie explained that the district does not offer such evaluations and that they usually come as a result of a non-agreement with an IEP. She explained that when there is such a disagreement, they usually progress to an independent evaluation. Mr. Collins noted the expense of the evaluations. Mrs. Eadie explained that the cost described in the item was for two evaluations, each about \$3000 for a full evaluation. Dr. Ecker explained that the district can choose to stop the process, causing the case to go to a fair hearing which can be even more expensive. Mrs. Eadie further explained that these evaluations are usually done on the way to a hearing and are not done often. Mr. Collins expressed his frustration with the continuing encroachment of Special Education on the General Fund.

Regarding item 3-O Acceptance of Agreement for Collaboration for Excellence in Middle School Science (CEMSS) CA Math and Science Project Grant, Mrs. Allcorn asked whether the district was in the 2nd or 3rd year and if there was one teacher for each grade, 7th and 8th, at each site. Mrs. Eadie explained that the

district is in the 3rd year of the grant and that there are 12 teachers total involved with varying numbers at each site. She explained that all 12 teachers have been involved since year 1 and that they have done some amazing activities with the students including a Back Bay project, visits to Chapman University and the County Coroner’s Office. Dr. Ecker explained that the grant allows for staff development and district participation in the consortium.

Vote: 5-0

The Consent Calendar included:

- Board Meeting Minutes from July 22nd meeting
 - Personnel Items
 - Donations
 - Warrant Registers
 - Purchase Order Listing
 - Budget Transfers
 - Single Plans for Student Achievement
 - Annual Review of Investment Policy
 - Resolution 2011-13: Certification of Provision of Standards-Aligned Instructional Materials
 - Transfer of Funds from Fund 40 (Special Reserve) to Fund 67 (Insurance)
 - Confidential Settlement Agreement
 - Reimbursement for Independent Educational Evaluations
 - Resolution 2011-20: Children and Families Commission School Readiness Initiative
 - Acceptance of 2010-11 Memo of Understanding between OCDE and FVSD for the BTSA/Induction Program Consortium
 - Acceptance of Agreement for Collaboration for Excellence in Middle School Science (CEMSS) CA Math and Science Project Grant between AUHSD and FVSD
 - Authorization to Use CMAS #4-04-00-0092A
 - Non-Public Agency Contracts (Board Members Only)
- | Non-Public School/Agency | 100% Contract Cost | Effective Dates |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Cornerstone Therapies | \$200 | 7/1/09 to 6/30/10 |

NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCombs Asked Mr. Burkart to update the board regarding the Federal money for jobs initiative.

Mr. Burkart Explained that there is a proposed \$10 billion to go to the States and CA is slated to receive \$1.2 billion of this. The money is to distributed in

one of two formulas, the first is a Title 1 formula and the second is similar to the formula used for the State stabilization money. He noted that the second formula would be preferred by the district based on the numbers that the district anticipates. He noted that the money can only be used for salaries and benefits and few administrative costs for teachers and classifieds but not at the District Office. He explained that it can be used to restore reductions, hire, or undo furlough days as long as it is within these groups. He did note one area of concern is that Darrell Steinberg has said he would subtract these funds from school funding so that there is not a net increase. Either way, the district will not see the money for a while and that it is a convoluted thing. Mr. Burkart explained that he does not think we will know much more until after the State budget is adopted.

Dr. Ecker Welcomed Mr. Steve McMahon back to the District as Assistant Superintendent, Business. He noted that he is looking forward to when Mr. McMahon will start in this role.

Dr. Ecker Echoed the Board's comments that there is nothing more important than what was done tonight, and that is for the board to set the tone for the district, set the goals and direction and that this is what the board is all about. He appreciated that even when the board must deal with distractions they keep on track and keep the focus on teaching and learning.

Dr. Ecker Echoed what Mr. McMahon had said earlier in the Management Retreat that is refreshing to spend time meeting on instruction and kids and that this is a worthy discussion.

Dr. Ecker Thanked Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Allcorn for their attendance and participation in the BBQ closing the Management Retreat.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Weiss moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm.

Second: Mrs. Edwards

Vote: Unanimously approved

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